

Hawaii MARINE SPORTS

HAWAII MARINE C SECTION

SEPTEMBER 3, 2004



Cpl. Jessica M. Mills

Estraisand DaSilva, shooting guard and administration noncommissioned officer for Headquarters Co., 3rd Marine Regiment, attempts to make a pass around an Air Force point guard during the Hawaii Armed Services Athletic Council Basketball Tournament, Aug. 23 - 27, aboard Sand Island Coast Guard Station.

Marines take 3rd in HASAC

Air Force knocks
Marines out of
tournament 51-35

Cpl. Jessica M. Mills
Sports Editor

SAND ISLAND COAST GUARD STATION, Hawaii — The MCB Hawaii Varsity Basketball team took third place representing the Marine Corps at the Hawaii Armed Services Athletic Council Basketball Tournament, Aug. 23 - 27, aboard Sand Island Coast Guard Station.

During the round-robin tournament, the Marines won three out of five games they competed in, but when they came up against the Air Force, Aug. 27, they were defeated 51-35, losing their spot in the championship finals.

The Air Force took control of the game from the very beginning. Their offense was hitting every mark and their defense was right on cue. Although the Marines were playing tough, their defense had some holes and the Air Force was able to slip shots in twice within three minutes,



Cpl. Jessica M. Mills

Ian Manongdo (left), from 1st Bn., 12th Marine Regiment, attempts to take possession of the ball in a last effort to close the gap between themselves and the Air Force team. The Marines lost the game, 51-35, and the Air Force went to the finals.

taking the lead, 5 - 2.

As the Air Force was about to score yet again, Marine teammate Russ Johnson, from 1st Bn., 12th Marine Regiment, tried to block the shot, but was instead called on a personal foul.

The Air Force was awarded one free throw, which raised the score 6-2.

The Air Force teamwork was well organized and their passing abilities were strong. While the Marines' skill-level was up to par, they didn't seem

to be fully focused. According to Master Sgt. Dean Jordan, coach of the MCB Hawaii Varsity Team and the services chief for the military police department, they were not guarding their point men well, and soon enough the Air Force scored again, 8-2.

As the game continued, the Marines were able to get themselves together and begin to put more points on the board, narrowing the gap 11-8, but the Air Force was still ahead.

As the Marines caught up, the Air Force stepped up and attempted to score, but Marine player Darnell Butler, from Combat Assault Company, 3rd Marine Regiment, made a high leap and blocked the shot, slamming the ball to the ground.

Although the Marines were showing improvement, the Air Force would not be wavered and as the minutes ticked by they continued to hold the upper hand on the courts.

With eight minutes left in the first half, the Air Force was up 16-12. When the Marine team attempted to score again, Antwan Macon, a subsi-

See **BBALL, C-7**

Former Marine receives inaugural award

Lance Cpl. Susan Moyer
Quantico Sentry

MARINE CORPS BASE QUANTICO, Va. — He glances back at his team in the dugout, and then taps the plate with his bat. His eyes quickly shift to the crowd and land on some dedicated fans cheering him on. First pitch ... strike one. Second ... strike two. Third ... crack! He rounds first, second, grazes third and slides into home.

This may have been a childhood dream, but in many ways it was a reality for retired 1st Sgt. Douglas W. Marocco. The team he played for was not the Los Angeles Dodgers like he dreamed. It was a much larger team, a brotherhood ... the Marine Corps. His wife and children were the thousands of cheering fans. The strikes are the obstacles he encountered throughout his lifetime. And finally he hit a Grand Slam and made it to home plate ... success.

First Sgt. Douglas Marocco, who retired June 30, was recognized Aug. 6, for his outstanding Athletic contributions to the All-Marine Sports Program. He was awarded the first ever Marine Corps Sports Hall of Fame Lifetime Achievement Award, presented by Gen. William L. Nyland, assistant commandant of the Marine Corps in a ceremony at The Clubs At Quantico. Marocco represented the Marine Corps on seven Armed Forces teams and 25 All-Marine teams in triathlon and running events.

After spending a year at college on a baseball scholarship, the 19-year-old enlisted in the Marine Corps because of its physical fitness reputation and active sports program.

"I was amazed that I could get paid, play baseball and help my country at the same time," he said.

The students at Marocco's military occupational school received their orders two weeks before graduating from Twentynine Palms and were informed that the honor graduate of the class would earn the option of choosing his duty station.

Marocco maintained his already high GPA and graduated at the top of his class. He chose a stateside assignment at Marine Corps Air Station Tustin, Calif., because he wanted to be with his new wife, Sandra, and once again play baseball. His original orders were a one-year, unaccompanied tour to Okinawa, Japan.

During his first year at Tustin, Calif., Marocco played base-level softball, basketball and football. Marocco had to eventually give up team sports because games and practices conflicted with the odd shifts he worked as a communication center operator.

"Being an athlete, you are competitive by nature and you need to compete," he said. Marocco started looking at the physical fitness test as a sport or a track meet. He looked at the other Marines as his competitors. He then started to concentrate on running and

See **AWARD, C-7**

Hawaii Marines tee off in Calif.

Cpl. Megan L. Stiner
Combat Correspondent

Five Marines from Kaneohe Bay have been selected to try out for a position on the All-Marine Corps Golf Team at a competitive tournament at Mission Hills Golf Course in Palm Springs, Calif., Monday through Thursday.

The Marines heading to the West Coast include John K. Bascuk, staff noncommissioned officer in charge of the Sassy Management Unit for Combat Service Support Group 3; Troy A. Frazier, Combat Assault Company first sergeant for 3rd Marine Regiment; Patrick H. Clark, career planner for 3rd Radio Battalion; Philip G. Mancilla, ground supply chief for Marine Forces Pacific; and Daniel J. Fitzsimons, saxophone player for the Marine Forces Pacific Band.

"Every year Hawaii Marines make a good showing at the competition," said Frazier. "In both 2001 and 2002 we had two Marines there and in 2003 we made up half the team with three Hawaii Marines competing at the interservice level."

There are 25 Marines competing for six spots in the 72-hole medal play tournament. The top six competitors will then gain a position on the All-Marine Corps Golf Team. The top six golfers from California will compete in the Armed Forces Golf Championship held at Fort Carson, Colo.

Golfers submit applications each year in order to be selected for competition in the tournament.

This year's group had various reasons for submitting the applications. Explanations ranged from being selected in previous years to just hoping maybe their game was good enough to make the cut.

Bascuk, who has played golf for 18 years, explained this is his sixth year participating in the tryouts. He competed at the interservice level for two years in the past.

"It's a grind," he said. "Every year after the second round, you get a feel for the field though and it's usually between 10-12 competitors for the six spots on the team."

After competing in 2001 and 2003, he feels confident in his ability to qualify yet again for the All-Marine Corps Team.

"This is my biggest accomplishment as a golfer," said Fitzsimons, a Ruxton, Md. native. "It is a really good opportunity for any competitive golfer in the Marine Corps."

Fitzsimons explained he was introduced to golf through his father, but his inspiration came from Lee Trevino, a former Marine who was later inducted into the Golf Hall-of-Fame.

"This was my first time applying for the competition," said Fitzsimons. "I am a self-taught golfer, and I look forward to the experience of competing with so many people who share such a high interest in golfing."

Frazier, a Fredericksburg, Va., native, intends to make this year's tryouts a memorable event.

"This is my last year trying out because I am going to retire in November to pursue a professional career in golfing," he said. "This is my last opportunity. I was on the team last year and I feel confident in my abilities going into this year's tryouts."

Mancilla may be a rookie when it comes to the All-Marine Corps Golf tryouts, but he is not new to the game. He has been golfing for 15 years and hopes his

See **GOLF, C-6**



Mark Turney

Retired First Sgt. Douglas Marocco was recently awarded the first ever Marine Corps Sports Hall of Fame Lifetime Achievement Award, presented by Gen. William L. Nyland, assistant commandant of the Marine Corps in a ceremony at The Clubs At Quantico on Aug. 6.

BASE SPORTS

September

8/ Wednesday

Intramural Football Season Begins — Head over to Pop-Warner Field for the 6 p.m. official kickoff of the Intramural Football Season.

Watch the MCB Hawaii units take on each other in hard-hitting, super-sticking action. The schedule will be announced on MCCS Web site; www.mccshawaii.com.

For more information, call MCCS Intramural Athletics at 254-7591.

14/ Tuesday

Camp Smith Flag Football Begins — September marks the beginning of the football season, and Camp Smith is gearing up with Flag Football.

If you want to play, get your team

together and call MCCS Camp Smith Athletics at 477-0498.

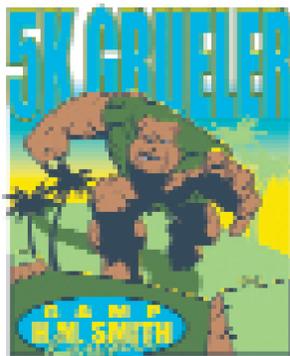
22/ Wednesday

Camp Smith 5K Grueler — Race over to Camp Smith for the 8th Annual Camp Smith 5K Grueler, and show the mountain what you're made of Oct. 22.

This 5K run begins at 11:30 a.m. and winds throughout Camp Smith's rugged mountainous terrain beginning and finishing at the panoramic Sunset Lanai.

Registration fees are \$15 for individuals, and \$60 for six-person teams before Sept. 14. Late registration will be \$18 for individuals, and \$78 for teams.

First place awards for individual categories (Ages 19 & Under, 20 - 24, 25 - 29, 30 - 34, 35 - 39, 40 - 44, 45 - 49, 50 - 54, 55 - 59, 60 & above), top three for teams, and top three overall



for men and women.

The course winds through approximately 5 kilometers of rugged terrain on Camp Smith.

If you're stationed at Kaneohe Bay, don't fret; you too can jump in on the fun by hopping on the free shuttle bus from K-Bay to Camp Smith on race-day.

The shuttle will pick up personnel at 10 a.m. at the Kaneohe Semper Fit Center and return personnel after the race.

To register, call 254-7590/91 or look to www.mccshawaii.com for online registration.

SM&SP Shank & Slice Golf Tournament — It's time again for the famous Single Marine & Sailor Program's Shank & Slice Golf Tournament.

Play begins at 12:30 p.m. The tournament is open to all single active duty military personnel, ranked E-5 or below.

The fee for the tournament is \$25 and includes golf fees, golf cart, pupus, sodas and prizes. Pre-registration is mandatory due to a high volume of registrants. The deadline for registration is Sept. 17, before 4 p.m.

All entry forms are to be delivered to the Single Marine & Sailor Program located in building 1629, the Semper Fit Center or the Camp Smith gym.

For more information, call Christianna Haberman at the SM&SP office at 254-7593.

25 / Saturday

Pyramid Rock Beach Surf Showdown — Show your worth in the surf at the Pyramid Beach Surf Showdown.

The meet hits the beach Sept. 25, from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., and is open to military of all services, dependents and DoD cardholders.

The competitions include youth surfing and bodyboarding for dependents ages 14 years and under as well as contestants ages 15-19 years.

Amateur surfers can battle it out in the Men's Division (18-30 years), Men's Masters (31 and up), the Women's Open (all ages), the Men's Longboard Division (all ages) and the Women's Longboard Division (all ages).

The entry fee is \$15 for adults, \$10 for youth, however day-of-event entries will be charged an additional \$10.

Each participating surfer will receive a Surf Showdown T-shirt. Entry forms can be found and dropped off at the MCBH Aquatics in building 274 as well as at the beaches.

Come down to participate or spend the day in the sun and check out the action. For more information, contact MCCS Aquatics at 254-7655.

Ongoing

Summer Sailing Classes — It's the end of summer, but that doesn't mean the fun has to stop. Head to the base marina for the final session of summer lessons beginning Sept. 3. (Don't worry; there are classes available all year.)

Learn to sail your own boat. Youth and adult sailing classes are available. Two-week classes run from Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m.

The cost ranges from \$69 to \$99 to become a certified sailor depending upon rank.

For more information, call the marina at 254-7667.

Gone Fishin' — Join Mahalo Kai Fishing Charters for a day beyond the bay.

Located at the base marina, the charter contractor now has two different boats to accommodate all of your fishing needs.

Check out its newest boat, the Bill Collector, built for charter fishing at its finest. For more information, call 254-7667.

NASCAR Sundays — Race to Kahuna's Sports Bar & Grill to catch NASCAR.

The club opens with breakfast at 8 a.m. and serves selections from the grill menu until closing time at 8 p.m. If you wear your favorite race driver's gear, you receive \$1 off chicken wings.

Commanders Cup Bowling League — The league just finished its first season, a successful one chockfull of bowling fun for everyone. To learn more, give your input or just sign up, call 254-7693.

Inexpensive, Fun Entertainment — Look no further for economical entertainment, as Mondays through Thursdays, all E-5 and below can receive free rental shoes and discounted games at only \$1.50 a game.

This discount is good for open play, and does not qualify for tournaments, leagues or unit functions.

Call the K-Bay Lanes now to get the spin at 254-7693.

Colored Pin Special — Every

Wednesday, roll a strike when a colored pin is in the head-pin position, and win up to three free games of bowling.

All patrons are welcome to this deal. If you make the play, you win.

Parents for Fitness — This cooperative baby-sitting effort is available at the Semper Fit Center, for children ages 6 weeks and older.

All active duty service members and their families may participate; however, PFFP participants are required to volunteer baby-sit three times per month.

Call 235-6585 for more information.

Paintball Hawaii — Near the Lemon Lot, by the intersection of Harris Road and Mokapu Road lays Paintball Hawaii.

Shoot over for the great deals and have a blast. Cost is only \$25 per person, and the fee includes one air refill, equipment and the field fee (paint is extra).

Players can purchase paint at the field from \$45 — \$50 for a case of 2,000 balls.

The field is open on weekends from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Call 265-4283 for Friday appointments.

Junior Lifeguards — The base pool is currently offering Junior Lifeguard instruction for the youth at MCB Hawaii.

Let your kids enhance their skills and abilities in the water, plus gain confidence and experience that can lead to a job. Contact the base pool at 254-7655.

Take the Plunge — Wet your feet and beat the heat at any one of four MCCS pools that serve your swimming demands.

Splash to the K-Bay main pool at building 981, the Hilltop Pool at building 502 (for O' Club members only), the Camp Smith pool at building 125, or the Manana Housing pool in building 840.

Massage Therapy — Massage therapy, by certified massage therapists, is available at both Kaneohe Bay and Camp Smith.

The massage therapy program will help relieve your mental and physical fatigue and improve your overall circulation and body tone.

Appointments are available by calling the K-Bay Semper Fit Center at 254-7597, or Camp Smith at 477-5197.

Okinawa Kenpo Karate — Every Tuesday and Thursday, join MCCS Youth Activities' contractor for Kenpo Karate Kobudo classes, held from 6 to 7:30 p.m. in building 1391, located behind the 7-day Store.

Adults and children are welcome, and costs are \$35 for adults and \$25 for children. Additional family members cost \$20.



Base All Star

Darnell Butler

Unit: Combat Assault Co., 3rd Bn., 3rd Marine Regiment

Billet: Motor vehicle operator instructor

Hometown: Manhattan, N.Y.

- Butler has been basketball for over 12 years, three of those years while in the Marine Corps.
- He has been part of the MCB Hawaii Varsity Team for three years.
- Last year he played small forward and helped win the Far East Regional Mens Varsity Basketball Tournament championships.
- In August, he helped the 1/12 team win the 101 days of Summer, Summer Basketball League Tournament.
- In the recent HASAC tournament, he scored 25 points, 14 rebounds, 8 assists and 2 steals.



Curing cancer in rebellious teens is a challenge

Cancer Treatment Research Foundation

Press Release

Having trouble getting your teenage son or daughter to take out the trash or clean up their room? Imagine how hard it would be to get them to stick to a regimen requiring weekly IV treatments, five-day courses of cortical steroids, and daily doses of oral medication for two to three years. That is exactly the challenge faced by Dr. Eric Kodish, Director of the Rainbow

Center for Pediatric Ethics and Associate Professor of Pediatrics, Oncology and Biomedical Ethics at Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine.

Cancer Treatment Research Foundation is currently funding a study through which Kodish hopes to discover how closely teens with acute lymphoblastic leukemia follow their assigned treatment, and to discover the key factors that keep them from complying.

Acute lymphoblastic leukemia is curable in

the majority of teens who closely follow their treatment, but many do not take their medication regularly and very little research has been done to understand why. The goal is to find ways to help teens stick with their treatment long enough to cure their leukemia for good.

"We believe that gaining a better understanding of the barriers to medication adherence will help us develop ways to give practical and effective help to teenagers who need this life-saving medication," said Kodish.

In addition to saving the lives of leukemia patients, Kodish's work could have applications for children and adolescents with any type of disease requiring consistent medication, from diabetes to asthma.

Cancer Treatment Research Foundation, a nonprofit organization dedicated to finding groundbreaking new treatments for cancer, participates in the Combined Federal Campaign as a member of the Medical Research Charities federation.

COMMUNITY SPORTS

HTMC to Hike Pupukea Summit, Sunday

The Hawaiian Trail and Mountain Club will host a 9-mile, intermediate hike on Oahu's North Shore.

Initial elevation gain is quick and painless, by car, to the top of Pupukea. The hike is on a meandering dirt road, and a moderately steep contour trail through lush woodlands to a summit spot with vast panoramic views of two coastlines. Don't overshoot the turnaround spot, because the trail continues for miles!

For hike details, call coordinators Kris Corliss and Larry Oswald at 638-7268.

Sunday Polo at Waimanalo

Gates open at 1 p.m. with games kicking off at 2:30 p.m. for the "Argentina Celebration" matches at the polo fields across from Bellow AFS.

Cost is \$3, Keiki 12 and under are free. The ponies will be available for children to visit after the matches.

For more information about the Honolulu Polo Club, visit <http://www.honolulu polo.com>.

State Offers Free Recreation

The Hawaii Department of Land & Natural

Resources is offering education classes for the public. Subjects covered include firearms and archery safety, survival and first aid, wildlife identification and conservation, regulations, game care and outdoor responsibility.

Attendance at two sessions is required for certification, and classes are open to anyone 10 years or older who enjoys the outdoors — not just hunters.

The next two-day session is Sept. 17 from 5:45 to 10 p.m. and Sept. 18 from 7:45 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Classroom #A-212 at the Nimitz Business Center, 1130 N. Nimitz Hwy. (Drive up the ramp to the classroom, which is the first room on the right.)

A picture ID is required for entry to the sessions. For more information about outdoor education, or to sign up for this course, call 587-0200.

Range Challenges to 'Take Your Best Shot' at Hunger

Hunters, anglers and any outdoors enthusiast who cares about human and natural resources are encouraged to come out and celebrate the 33rd National Hunting & Fishing Day at Koko Head Shooting Range, (the first left past Hanauma Bay on Kalaniana'ole Highway, headed toward Waimanalo), Sept. 25 and 26 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Bring a canned food or cash donations for the Hawaii Food Bank, and for each canned good or \$1 donation, you will receive a free

activity coupon to participate in skeet, .22 rifle or handgun, muzzleloader, archery, air gun or a fish casting contest.

Lots of fun, demonstrations, food and prizes are planned, so come celebrate and feed the hungry in the process.

For more details, call Hawaii's Hunter Education Program at 587-0200.

Bellows Offers Adventure Programs

Whether you are spending a few weeks or just visiting for the day, check out any of the following weekly Bellows Outdoor Adventures programs.

For more information, call Turtle Cove at 259-4121 anytime from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. (Bring bottled water and sunscreen for outdoor activities.)

•Saturdays at 8 a.m., Morning Paddle: Take the guided kayak tour to the Mokuua Islands, which offers the opportunity to see birds up close in their natural habitat. Advanced skill level is required.

•Saturdays at 1 p.m., History Tours by van: Learn about and see significant historical landmarks on Bellows Air Force Station.

•Sundays at 8:30 a.m., History Tours by bike: Ride into off-limits areas on mountain bikes for an extensive seven-mile, three-hour, guided tour of Bellows AFS. Day rental of bikes and helmets is included. Wear closed-toe shoes.

•Mondays at 8:30 a.m., Hike to Makapu: Take a moderate 2.5-mile roundtrip hike to the

Makapu Lighthouse. Wear closed-toe shoes.

•Tuesdays and Thursdays at 10 a.m., Lei Making: Pick your own flowers to use in making beautiful lei and enjoy ancient Hawaiian folk tales and stories.

•Wednesdays at 6:30 a.m., Bikram's Yoga: Gain a sense of well-being and good health in this Indian-style form of yoga, which features 26 postures and two breathing exercises.

•Wednesdays and Fridays at 8:30 a.m., Snorkeling Tour: Discover the magnificent underwater world of the ocean at a nearby, undisturbed reef. Transportation, instruction and snorkeling equipment are included.

•Wednesdays and Thursdays at 1 p.m., Kayaking Lessons: Master ocean-kayaking skills including water safety and efficient paddling techniques in this two-hour class.

•Thursdays at 9 a.m., Beach 101: The whole family can attend this fun class.

•Fridays at 1 p.m., Bodyboarding Lessons: Learn how to catch and ride the waves. Free day rental of boogie board is included.

Hale Koa Hosts Summer Fitness

If tennis is your sport, "do" the Labor Day Weekend Tournament, Sept. 4 - 5. Call the Hale Koa Activities Desk for more details at 955-0555, ext. 546.

Also, be sure to ask about future happenings at The Point Health Club at the Hale Koa Hotel. Call the health club at 955-9155 for more information.



THE BOTTOM LINE

(Editor's Note: "The Bottom Line" is the **Hawaii Marine's** weekly sports commentary from two sports aficionados who rarely see eye-to-eye when it comes to America's one true obsession — sports. Chances are you'll either agree with one of their takes or disagree with both. Our two resident sports junkies welcome your e-mails of no more than 250 words. We will print the top comment of the week from our readers.

Send "Readers Strike Back" comments to editor@hawaiimarine.com. Remember, "If you don't speak up, you won't be heard.")

Who will win the next Super Bowl?

Sgt. Joe Lindsay

The Goat

The Goat didn't mow the lawn this weekend. The Goat didn't take out the trash. But the Goat did watch USC spank Virginia Tech Saturday, just like he said they would.

But there is something more important than college football on the horizon. Important enough even to overshadow "LeBronze" James and broken dreams of 11-year olds everywhere who used to think we were the best.

Yes, now it is time to focus on what is really important in life: Not country, not family, not the upcoming election.

Are you ready for some football?

Twelve million Americans play fantasy football and millions more lay down their dollars in Vegas to answer one question: Who will win the next Super Bowl?

Look no further. Not even to your right, where the Professor is probably going to give you the exact same picks as ESPN or Sports Illustrated. Please, fellow degenerates, do not follow the sheep to the slaughter. Instead, sit down in a dive bar with Charles Bukowski and repeat, "Picks, for all my friends."

AFC Championship

Don't cry for me New England. Tom Brady is a stud, but so was John Holmes, and look what happened on Wonderland Blvd. Things were good for a while, and then they went bad, real bad, real fast.

The Patriots are everybody's pick, but, even though they are big, lets just admit, they are not as good as everyone thinks they are.

Next up, all the "experts" want to pick pretty boy Peyton Manning and the Indianapolis Colts. Problem is, the Colts are just that — Colts. The real stallions are the horses ridden by the Kansas City Chiefs.

NFC Championship

"Brett, there's just something about, Brett."

Hugh Heffner is great at what he does, but he's not so good at the other stuff. Who cares? The Goat don't. But still, picking the Seattle "SeaChickens" to come out of the NFC was a little too far reaching — even for the greatest visionary since Nostradamus.

People forget about Green Bay quicker than they forget Pamela Anderson has Hepatitis C. The Packers are going to make T.O. wish he was still in Jeff Garcia's closet of receivers.

Bottom Line: Forget about the elections. Forget about donkeys vs. elephants. Start thinking about Cheese vs. Beef. Let's be honest. America doesn't care about gay governors. America cares about straight quarterbacks. And Brett Favre throws straight enough to make Kansas City a broken arrow. Packers win the Super Bowl. Brett walks out on top, just like Elway. And this side of Athens, it's the way it is supposed to be.

Capt. K.D. Robbins

The Professor

Why waste any time? The grass is greener. The leaves have changed color and obese, overpaid, middle-aged NFL fanatics are prepping their body paint and beer warmers for another season of America's number one spectator sport.

So, in order to keep the public happy, here's The Bottom Line's look at the 2004-05 NFL season:

NFC East: Philadelphia Eagles — No Bobby Taylor, no problem. Jevon Kearse + T.O. = final pieces to the Eagles Super Bowl puzzle. Eagles win, despite ugly fans.

NFC North: Minnesota Vikings — Hockey's, I mean football's most competitive division this season. Go with the Vikings on talent alone. Expect the Bears and Pack to make plenty of noise. Detroit will win too. This division is loaded.

NFC South: New Orleans Saints — The NFL's biggest group of underachievers will finally come together. LSU and the Saints in back-to-back years, it could happen???

Carolina is strong, but is Jake Delhomme really an NFL quarterback?

NFC West: Seattle Seahawks — The trendy pick of the year. But, don't expect all that much outside of the weakest division in the NFL. They are still the Seattle Seahawks.

Wildcard: Washington Redskins & Carolina Panthers — Joe Gibbs knows winning. Clinton Portis knows running. Skins are in. With the best defensive interior in the NFL, look for the Panthers to go far, despite their offensive woes.

AFC East: New England Patriots — Rapidly becoming the NFL's New York Yankees. The Pats don't rebuild. They reload: A dangerous team with a solid coach.

AFC North: Baltimore Ravens — Jamal Lewis' legal trouble is the only thing that stands between the NFL's best defense and another Super Bowl ring.

AFC South: Indianapolis Colts — The Big 3 (Manning, James & Harrison) get a speed defense. Will Tony Dungy finally break his Super Bowl curse (i.e. finally get to one)?

AFC West: Denver Broncos — Clinton Portis for Champ Bailey is never a good trade. Nevertheless, it just feels like a Shanahan year. It's make-or-break for Jake the Snake.

Wildcard: Pittsburgh Steelers & Kansas City Chiefs — when nobody picks the Steelers, they win. This just in: Dick Vermeil likes to cry. Unfortunately, Chiefs fans will cry too with that defense on the field.

See **PROFESSOR**, C-6

READERS STRIKE BACK

Dear Bottom Line,

I enjoyed your college football preview and am hoping you will do an NFL preview as well. That way I can put my picks against yours and feel superior.

Seriously though, I am really writing to discuss the debacle that occurred at the Olympics with the basketball team formerly known as Dream.

Watching them barely win the bronze medal was a painful experience. Some drastic changes need to be made in the way the team is picked in the future.

Of all the suggestions I have heard, the goat's suggestion about having the NBA champions play makes the most sense. Still, I can't help but wonder what would have happened if Shaq and KG would have shown up. I am sure we would have won

the gold again. The bronze medal ceremony was a sad day for United States basketball.

Just wanted to thank you both for addressing the matter. Hopefully if enough people do, then what happened in Athens will never happen again.

Marc Armstead
Mountlake Terrace, WA

"The bronze medal ceremony was a sad day for United States basketball."

SPORTS AROUND THE CORPS

Marines build mini Fenway Park

Cpl. Veronika R. Tuskowski
1st Marine Division

CAMP RAMADI, Iraq — Capt. Stephen Pritchard has the ultimate offer to the Boston Red Sox CEO, John Henry, and Red Sox General Manager Theo Epstein.

"If the Spring Training venue in Sarasota, Fla., ever proves to be untenable, then you are more than welcome to hold Spring Training here in Ar Ramadi, Iraq," said Pritchard, a logistics officer with 3rd Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment.

Why such a gracious offer?

Marines with the cannoncocks of 3rd Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment reconstructed a miniature version of the Red Sox's Fenway Park at Camp Ramadi, Iraq.

"The Army here on base had their own baseball field, and we had to travel over there whenever we wanted to play," said Pritchard, from Weymouth, Mass.

"So we cleared up an area and built one ourselves."

Pritchard provided the inspiration behind modeling the diamond after Boston's famous baseball park.

"I am a big Red Sox fan, and Fenway has the most famous left field fence in the Major Leagues," Pritchard said. "Not just that, but it is the most identifiable feature of any American sporting venue."

The Marines used over 200 panels of recycled wood to construct the outer fence of the field that reaches 290 feet to center field. They used old light poles as foul line poles and over 120 gallons of green paint. The left field has an unmistakable feature like

Fenway: the "Green Monster," a 64-foot long and 18-foot high wall.

"It was a two-week project," said Cpl. Jason M. Samuels, 22, and an artillery mechanic with the unit. "Putting up the Green Monster was the hardest part. We built it on the ground and stood it up. We had 30 guys lifting it up and it was shifting and wobbling."

The field was named "Phelps Field" after Pfc. Chance Phelps, who was killed April 9 during combat operations in Iraq. He was the only Marine the battalion lost while in Iraq.

See FENWAY, C-5



Cpl. Veronika R. Tuskowski

Marines with 3rd Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment play a game of softball against the Navy Seabees from Naval Mobil Construction Battalion 14, Aug. 29, on Camp Ramadi.

FENWAY, From C-4

Even though it is named "Phelps Field," Pritchard has nicknamed it Fenway East ... as in Middle East.

And where would the mini-Fenway be if it weren't for advertising? The Marines paid \$20 each to make advertisements along the fence. The funding goes to the unit's Marine Corps Ball in November.

Despite creating a likeness to Fenway, the real reason for building the field was to help the Marines through their seven-month-long deployment.

"I think by building this field we have provided all troops on this base an outlet for stress and tension," said Pritchard. "It gives them a chance to forget about the daily grind ... and just enjoy some softball."

"I grew up with the Red Sox, so this field makes me feel like I am back home with American traditions," said Petty Officer 1st Class Fernald J. Darrin, a company chief with Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 14. "It makes you feel like you aren't in a war zone. It's a stress reliever."

"None of the Seabees can reach the Green monster," said Petty Officer 1st

Class James Cochran, operations chief, NMCB-14. "But it's not about winning with us, we just come out here to heckle each other and have a good time."

Soon 3rd Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment will be heading back to the states and their replacements, 2nd Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment, will be coming to a fully furnished camp.

"This field is one of our capstones," said Pritchard, who keeps the field meticulously maintained. "This is a good start for the 2/11 Marines to pick up where we left off. We built this to try to erase some of the scars of the war, so if you stay here at Camp Ramadi for seven months it wouldn't be so bad."



Capt. Stephan Pritchard

Twenty-five Marines stand the frame of the mini "Green Monster" for a replica of Boston's Fenway Park in Ar Ramadi, Iraq. The field was made by the artillerymen of 3rd Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment. More than 200 wood panels, recycled from old tents in Kuwait, were used to construct the field. Old light poles were used to make the foul line poles.

GOLF, From C-1

competitive nature will assist him in the upcoming tournament.

"I just want to see how I will fare against the competition," said the Omaha, Neb. native. "This is my first year, and I am looking forward to the experience."

Clark, a Bridgeport, Conn. native, began golfing because it looked like an easy sport. Twenty years later he continues to compete, but with a slightly different mindset.

"I wasn't very sure if I would get selected because this was my first time submit-

ting an application," he explained. "I am happy to go out there and I intend to do my best no matter what may come out of it."

Once the competition is concluded and the team is formed, those who made the cut will continue on to the inter-service level and those who do not go on will return to K-Bay.

The following day after results are posted, golf carts will run and clubs will be swinging. Regardless of the outcome, golfers will be preparing for either inter-service competition, or the thought of next years try-outs.

PROFESSOR, From C-3

Green and Holmes aren't getting any younger.

Bottom Line: The 2004-05 NFL in a nut shell: The mighty Patriots fall. The Ravens prove no matter how good a defense is, nobody wins a scoreless game. Eagles beat the Colts in the Super Bowl. McNabb is Super Bowl MVP. James bolts Indy for the sand and sun of South Beach. The Bottom Line lives on ... Where's the body paint and beer warmer?



Pic. Rich Mattingly

Staying Healthy

Christianna Haberman, MCB Hawaii Single Marine and Sailor Program Coordinator, talks with a Marine about the SM&SP program during Marine Corps Community Service's Health Fair at the Semper Fit center main gym Aug. 26. Patrons were treated to displays and information encompassing all areas of fitness and healthy lifestyles. Both kids and adults learned the basics of how to stay healthy from displays including: Sports Medicine and Rehabilitation Team (SMART) clinic, Navy Health Promotions, Kahuna's, Aquatics and Water Safety,

Marine and Family Services, the Joint Education Center, Herbalife, Tiki Tanning, fitness, safety, massage therapy, nutrition, K-Bay Lanes bowling, the effects of tobacco use, substance and alcohol abuse prevention and STD/HIV prevention and education. Participants of the Health & Fitness Fair merited 101 Days of Summer points for their unit. Accumulation of points from this event and of other 101 Days of Summer events can earn additional unit party monies.



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Cpl. Jessica M. Mills

Russ Johnson, from 1st Bn., 12th Marine Regiment, tries to block an Air Force forward from passing the ball to his teammates during the Hawaii Armed Services Athletic Council Basketball Tournament, Aug. 23 - 27, aboard Sand Island Coast Guard Station.

BBALL, From C-1

tence noncommissioned officer with Combat Service Support Group 3, lunged forward to block the Air Force forward, but he was knocked to the side and they scored, 18-12.

Macon was not persuaded by the shunt, and on the Air Force's next shot he made another attempt, this time he was successful. Unfortunately, he was also called on a personal foul and the Air Force was awarded two free throws, raising the score to 20-12.

As the time wound down, Air Force player Mike Katkoski, supply technician aboard Hickam Air Force Base, scored his second three-pointer of the game, raising the score to 26-12.

Seconds before the half ended, with the Marines struggling to catch up, Katkoski made his third three-pointer of the game, ending the first half, 34-17.

"Our biggest difficulty is our individual defense. The other coach is making a real small lineup to take my bigger players out of the game," said Jordan. "We really need to focus on

our man-to-man defense."

The Air Force opened the half with another three-pointer, raising the score 37-17. But the Marines had a strong will, and kept going hard, scoring a layup, 37-19.

Minutes later, Paul Stewart, CSSG-3, cleared his first three-pointer of the evening for the Marines, directly followed by a layup by Tony Rogers, of Headquarters Company, 3rd Marine Regiment.

The score stood 38-24, and although the Marines were still behind, they stayed motivated and saw a light at the end of the tunnel.

As the game slowly came to a close with two minutes left, the Air Force had left the Marines in the dust, but the Marines still kept pushing.

The Marines agreed that they needed to go out strong — the game was not over yet.

Butler made three shots in a row, raising the Marines' score 47-35. With 35 seconds left in the game, the Marines had done all they could do, but to no avail. Katkoski scored one more three-pointer for the Air Force to win the game 51-35, and advancing his team to the finals.

AWARD, From C-1

lowering his 3-mile run time. Marocco would go on to complete 56 straight 300 PFTs with a fastest run time of 15:08.

During Marocco's first overseas tour, he competed in a base triathlon in Okinawa and without any training, finished eighth out of approximately 500 competitors. "I was hooked and knew that with hard work I could get much better," he said.

Over the years, the Marines Marocco worked for allowed him to train on his own during authorized PT time in order to get himself ready for upcoming triathlons. He rode his bike to work most mornings and spent his lunches swimming or running.

Once Marocco's results became National level, he often took leave on Wednesdays to train. His eight- or nine-hour training day consisted of a 100- to 130-mile bike ride and a 16- to 22-mile run.

Marocco returned to Twentynine Palms with his family and continued to develop his endurance on the roads and trails in and around Joshua Tree and the Mojave Desert.

The tough environment was just what he needed in order to train for the grueling Hawaii Ironman and many other triathlons and running events that he competed in while stationed as an instructor at the Marine Corps Communications-Electronics School aboard the Combat Center from 1991-1996.

During this time, Marocco was U.S. Triathlon Series Amateur National Champion, four-time Military National Champion and Hawaii Ironman Military Champion. He credits his MCCES command support and base athletic director Skip Best for the opportunity to represent the Marine Corps at such prestigious events and earn the honors of Armed Forces and (twice) Marine Corps Athlete of the Year.

Marocco returned to Japan the second time on an accompanied tour at MCAS Iwakuni. He competed in events throughout Asia and won 16 races during the three years including a Bronze Medal at the 1998 International Triathlon Union World Championships held on Sado Island, Japan.

Marocco followed that tour as a Detachment Commander on Marine Security Guard Duty in Honduras and was equally successful competing in Central America winning a Silver Medal at the Pan American Championships.

Marocco has competed in more than 250 competitions from the Hawaii Ironman World Championships to the Military World Championships. A real highlight for Marocco was in 1995 when he was selected as the flag bearer for the U.S. delegation of the first Military World Games in Rome, Italy.

"Nothing compares to being the symbol for your entire country," he said.

While stationed at The Basic School, Quantico, Va., Marocco continued with his training and competed in the Marine Corps Marathon among many other events.

In 2003, Marocco, along with five other military athletes, was featured on a commemorative Cheerios box promoting Armed Forces Sports.

All of his hard work and dedication did not go unrecognized by the Marine Corps.

About one month after his retirement, Marocco received the first Lifetime Achievement Award for his contribution to the All-Marine Sports Program.

Marocco did not know he was attending the luncheon to receive an award.

"They called me up there, and I was so surprised," he said. "I didn't know they were going to create a new award, and I didn't know I was receiving it."

Marocco will not take all the credit for his successes.

"The Marine Corps has provided me the opportunity to succeed as a professional and as an athlete," he said.

Marocco credits his strong work ethic and physical and mental courage to his parents, who instilled it in him, and to the Marine Corps, where it was enforced. His wife also played a large role in his success by allowing his goals to be priority.

"She has supported my military career, stabilizing our family Nathan (20), Allison (15) and Christina (13) through 14 moves in 21 years and gave me the drive to reach for my athletic dreams," he said.

