

MEHS opens season with win over Panthers

By Irving Ungudruk

The basketball season arrived for Mt. Edgecumbe High School on Tuesday, November 23, with a satisfying win over the Skagway Panthers, last year's number two team in the

Southeast Alaska Class B schools. This is also satisfying for us who are ardent MEHS fans, as one of the options discussed last year as a means of keeping the school open was to drop all sports, and

the concomitant athlete travel.

In the preliminary game Tuesday, the MEHS Bravettes won 33 to 16 over the Skagway girls. For Edgecumbe, the points were pretty evenly divided. Esther Spein scored

highest with seven points.

Several of the other girls had six points. The Bravettes are a spunky team. They travel all over SE Alaska, playing the big schools like Juneau, Ketchikan, and Sitka, as well as

the smaller schools, and they win their share of the games. On Saturday, the Bravettes defeated the Sheldon Jackson College women 63 to 43. Dwayne Davies is the girls coach.

In the main game, Coach Verdell Briggs started with Seniors Tommy Andrew, captain, Rondell Jimmie, Brent Nelson, Juniors Dan Hotch and Joe Johnson. In a well-played game, the Braves defeated the Panthers 69 to 44. The Braves held the lead throughout the game and at half time it was 34 to 19. For Edgecumbe Dan Hotch was high scorer with 15 points. For the losers, Ray Claver put in 16 points.

The other Braves who played were: Marvin Willard, Charlie Olin, Ben Stevens, and Archie Edwards. It looked to me that this year's team is taller, on the average, so I asked Bob Barger, local radio sports announcer, who said, "They are taller."

Milton Cheemuk is again the Braves team manager. I am expecting big things from Milton when he leaves MEHS. His chair has been occupied by former students who went on to become our Native leaders. Emil Notti sat on that chair, so did John Schaeter.

The annual MEHS Varsity vs. Alumni game was played Saturday, Nov. 27. There was a sign placed on the lawn in front of the school auditorium, which said, "Alumni will win Nov. 27." They almost did.

During the warm-up period, a fan sitting next to me said, "Looks like they are going to play the Angoon ANB." He was referring to Albert Kookesh, Matt Kookesh, Ivan Gamble, and Garfield George all from Angoon. George Henniger is from Yakutat. From the Sitka-Mt. Edgecumbe area there were: Edwin Mercer, Albert Duncan, Terenty Merculet, and Charlie Spud.

At half time, the game was looking like past varsity vs. alumni games, as the score was Braves 42, former Braves 27. However, at the beginning of the third quarter, Mercer and company called upon their long ANB experience, and began to full court press the younger Braves. This worked, and as soon as the alumni would get the ball, they would immediately pass it to Henniger for another two points. At the end of the quarter, the lead had been narrowed to five points. The fourth quarter turned out to be very exciting.

Coach Briggs called about three time outs. To cope with the press, he put in his best ball handlers, Tom Andrew, Dan Hotch, Charlie Olin, Archie Edwards, and Eddie Pitka.

The final score: Braves 85, Alumni 84. What a basketball game! For the younger Braves, it was Dan Hotch with 23 points. For the alumni, George Henniger put in 13 field goals, plus 10 points from the free throw line, for a total of 36 points.