

Kotzebue Audience Enjoys Basketball During Tournament Between Barrow, Kotzebue Teams

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Kotzebue saw some very fine basketball played during the Western Invitational Tournament December 28-30.

Invitations went out to Barrow, Fairbanks, Eielson Air Force Base, Nome, Cape Lisburne and local Kotzebue clubs. Due to weather, only six teams were able to attend.

The Barrow Kings drew the Kotzebue Vacationers in the first round. The Kings took this game 93-64 with Harry Kaleak being high man with 26 points.

The Huskies High School varsity drew Kotzebue Air Force Base the first round and lost 75-53. Terry Martin of the AFB was high with 20 points.

The last game of the evening was the Barrow All Stars against Kotzebue All Stars. This proved to be a slow deliberate shooting game with the Kotzebue All Stars winning 91-82. Jim Stotts of the Barrow All Stars was high with 43 points—also a high for the tournament.

The Kotzebue All Stars, however, placed seven men in double figures.

The second day pitted the Kotzebue All Stars against the Kotzebue AFB. The All Stars won 87-72, Bill Rember being high man with 29 points and Booker of the AFB a close second with 28 points.

The second round of the games found the varsity against the Kotzebue Vacationers in the losers bracket. The Vacationers won the game 80-70.

The two Schaeffer boys of the Vacationers were high with Bobby scoring 32 points and Ross 22 points. High for the varsity were Ed Frank with 24 and Ted Shield with 16 points.

This put the Vacationers against the Barrow All Stars in the next round of the losers bracket.

The Barrow All Stars came through with some fine teamwork and won 86-67. Stotts was again high for the All Stars with 22 points and Bobby and Ross Schaeffer were again high for the Vacationers with 18 and 23 points respectively.

The best game of the tournament was in the semi-finals when the Barrow Kings (defending champions of 1966) played the Kotzebue All Stars. The All Stars upset the

Kings in this game by a score of 69-60.

High for the All Stars was Bill Rember with 37 points. This put the All Stars in the finals and the Kings to work their way up through the losers bracket.

The next game in the losers bracket saw the Kotzebue AFB play the Barrow All Stars. The AFB won this game 69-63.

For the final rounds the Kotzebue AFB played the Barrow Kings and won 87-81. High for the Kings was Booker with 37 points.

The Kings were plagued with foul trouble but still placed three men in double figures with Jerry Rexford 17, Harry Kaleak 15 and Danny Truesdale 23.

The championship game was held three hours following the semi-finals and saw a tired Kotzebue AFB play a rested Kotzebue All Stars—the All Stars taking the game 92-57, Bill Rember again getting 37 points for high game honors.

The judges picked Booker from the Kotzebue AFB as

most valuable player for the tournament. Bill Rember of the Kotzebue All Stars won the sportsmanship award.

Those making the first five All Star teams were: Dan Truesdale, Barrow Kings; Harry Kaleak, Barrow Kings; Jim Stotts, Barrow All Stars; Homer Mills, Kotzebue All Stars; and Bobby Schaeffer, Kotzebue Vacationers.

The Kotzebue All Stars played good tournament team ball. Our congratulations go to all their players: Russ Gilberg, Stan Little, Homer Mills, Gary Herbert, Bill Rember, Tommy Fields, Frank Fegurson, and Percy Ipalook, Jr.

The Athletic Club of Kotzebue would like to thank all those people who helped make the tournament possible. Special thanks go to the people who helped at the doors, scoreclock and donated their time to referee.

And to Mr. Gary Herbert, coordinator of recreation for Kotzebue, who put in many hours of planning and hard work to make this tournament a success.