



Bulldog boys' basketball drops three

By Tony Tussing
SPECIAL TO THE
BEACON

After a 2-0 start, the DeLand Bulldog boys in their second week of the 2015-16 basketball season dropped three games — two by 9 points, and the final by 5 points. The teams they faced, Father Lopez, Pine Ridge and Flagler Palm Coast, were all undefeated at the time the DeLand squad faced them.

The Bulldogs and the Bullpups, the JV squad, play host to Flagler Palm Coast at 5:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. Monday, Dec. 14. This will be followed by the DeLand Rotary Holiday Tournament in the Bulldog gym Thursday

Saturday, Dec. 17-19.

The first loss, a 64-55 loss to Father Lopez, found the two teams tied at the end of the first quarter 18-18, but at halftime, the Father Lopez team led by 8 points. The Dogs were led by Brodgie Gordon with 23 points and three steals, while Wyatt Hollmann had 11 rebounds and two blocked shots.

The next outing for DeLand found Pine Ridge moving to 4-0, as they won, 65-56. Gordon had 15 points, while Stephan Buker had 14. Mitch Bailey had eight rebounds and three blocked shots, while Hollmann had seven blocks and six rebounds, matching the effort of Tavian Durrett in the rebound department.

Finally, the Dogs met the Dogs, as DeLand traveled to Flagler Palm Coast and lost, 45-40, moving Flagler to 5-0 and DeLand to 2-3. Buker got 17 points and four rebounds, with Gordon adding 10 points, four assists and two steals. Hollmann finished the night with seven rebounds and two blocked shots, while Daryl Flowers grabbed five boards.

The Bullpups picked up two wins with one loss during the same time period against the same competitors to move their record to 4-1.

The JV stopped Father Lopez, 65-50, while outscoring Lopez 20 to 2 in the second period. Dejon Wooten had 16 points,

with Sherman Waters getting 15, with three blocked shots. Steven Lozada had 10 points for DeLand, while Skylor Haney-Rogers had 10 assists.

The younger squad then topped Pine Ridge, 50-45, with Waters scoring 11 points while collecting seven rebounds and one blocked shot. Haney-Rogers gathered in five assists and five steals.

Finally, the Flagler squad stopped the Bullpups' undefeated string, 66-55. In this game, Waters had 18 points, nine rebounds and three blocked shots, while Lozada got 12 points, and Wooten 11.



BEACON PHOTO/MARSHA MCLAUGHLIN

In training — Xiao-Fei Wang is shown here during training at Brandywine Tennis and Fitness Club near DeLand in November. On Dec. 6, Wang was the first Chinese player to win at the Eddie Herr International Championships in Bradenton.

Chinese youth who trained in DeLand wins tourney in Bradenton

By Joe Crews
joe@beacononline-
news.com

Wei-Yu Su, the owner of the Brandywine facility.

En route to winning the title, Wang defeated 11-seed Martin Damm (ranked second in Florida and second in the U.S.) in the quarterfinals, Jacob Bain of the Bahamas in the semis, and fourth-ranked Saud Al-hoghani of the U.S. in the finals.

Su said Wang is the first Chinese player to win the event in any division.

"It's quite an accomplishment," Su said.

Wang has returned to Brandywine to get ready for a tournament in Miami later in December, Su said.

Xiao-Fei Wang, a 12-year-old member of the Chinese national tennis team, won the 12-and-under boys' singles title at the Eddie Herr International Championships Dec. 6 at the IMG Academy in Bradenton.

The youngster trained at Brandywine Tennis and Fitness Club near DeLand in the several weeks leading up to the tournament.

Wang had to win several play-in tournaments to even qualify for the event, said

Shufflers compete

By Pat Moran
SPECIAL TO THE
BEACON

The final score was DeLand 13, Orange City 8.

The Dec. 1 in-house competition for members of the Orange City Shuffleboard Club was canceled because the courts are being resurfaced by the city. Club members are anxious to get back on the courts with the new surface, as it will be a great improvement.

On Dec. 2, the club traveled to DeLand for intercity

competition. The high three-game scorers were: 1. Don and Betty McMillan (DeLand), 253; 2. Chris and John Giumarra (DeLand), 237; 3. Pat and Bob Moran (OC), 236; 4. Janet Dally and Kim Lynch (OC), 234; and 5. Arnie Fischbach and John Whelton (DeLand), 233.

Coffee and cake were served in the clubroom by the DeLand club.

Stetson beach volleyball announces 2016 schedule

SPECIAL TO THE
BEACON

Two major home tournaments, including one featuring several national contenders, highlight the 2016 Stetson University beach-volleyball schedule.

Stetson, the two-time defending Atlantic Sun Conference champions, will open the season March 4-6 by hosting the Stetson Spring Break Tournament. Carson-Newman University, the College of Charleston, Eckerd College, Spring Hill College and the University of North Carolina-Wilmington will join Stetson for the three-day event.

Stetson will travel to Baton Rouge, Louisiana, March 11-12 for a tournament hosted by Louisiana State University.

Next, the Hatters will host three-straight Atlantic Sun doubleheaders against Florida Gulf Coast University (March 18), Jacksonville (March 19), and the University of North Florida (March 23). Stetson went a perfect, 8-0, in the regular



season against A-Sun opponents last year.

On March 25-26, the Hatters will host some of the top teams in the nation for their second home tournament. Hawaii (No. 4 in the final *DiG Magazine* Top 20 poll), Florida International (No. 5), Stetson (No. 6), Florida State (No. 7), UCLA (No. 10), and Florida Atlantic will compete at the Stetson beach-volleyball complex during the two-day event.

"We are very excited about being able to host some of the top schools in the country at our home this

season," Stetson head coach Kristina Hernandez said. "It is going to be some of the best East Coast schools and some of the best in the West. It is great for our program and university to be able to host such a stellar event on our campus. It is going to be a great weekend of highly competitive matches."

The Hatters will compete at FIU's tournament April 1-2, before completing the A-Sun regular-season schedule at Mercer April 5. The annual Fiesta on Siesta Key event will take place April 9-10.

The Atlantic Sun Conference Championship will be contested at the new Lake-Point Sporting Community Sand Volleyball Complex in Cartersville, Georgia, April 22-24. The first-ever NCAA Beach Volleyball Championships will be May 6-8 in Gulf Shores, Alabama.

In 2015, the Hatters won a school-record 22 matches, claimed the Atlantic Sun regular-season and conference championship, and finished the season ranked sixth nationally in both the AVCA Coaches Poll and the *DiG Magazine* Top 20 Poll.

Students to begin Winter Holiday; grading period ends Jan. 14



Class Notes
Tony Tussing

Students begin their **Winter Holiday** at the end of the school day Friday, Dec. 18, and return to class Monday, Jan. 4.

There is a change in school terms this year, as, for many years, the second grading period ended with the start of the Winter Holiday. That is not true this year, as the second grading period will not end until Thursday, Jan. 14.

Peace by Peace, a nursery and nonprofit founded by **Russell and Garrett Collins** of Orange City, will donate indoor air-purifying plants to four Volusia County schools Jan. 6. This brings the number of recipient schools for the **Green Classroom Initiative** to six.

The new schools joining the program are Orange City Elementary, Manatee Cove Elementary in Orange City, Discovery Elementary in Deltona, and the Highbanks Learning Center in DeBary. Blue Lake Elementary in DeLand and Chisholm Elementary in New Smyrna

Beach are already participating in the Green Classroom Initiative.

Peace by Peace specializes in natural and organic gardening, and actively builds community and school gardens as a way to increase access to healthful, local food. These gardens increase the number of pollinators, which, in turn, help increase food production.

If anyone would like to work on this project or donate land or resources to help build a garden, email Peace by Peace at PeacebyPeaceUSA@gmail.com. The website is www.PeacebyPeaceUSA.weebly.com.

The **DeLand Parks and Recreation Department** and **Volusia County Parks, Recreation and Culture** present the **DeLand City Basketball 2016 Winter Leagues**. There are four different age-group divisions for boys and girls ages 4 to 15.

The deadline to register is Saturday, Jan. 9. Register at the DeLand Parks and Recreation Office at 230 N. Stone St.

Call 386-626-7280 for more information about the cost, age-group divisions, practice and game times, and dates.

Orange City Elementary School

Orange City Elementary School would like to recognize and thank **Lowe's in Orange City** for donating a generous amount of plants and mulch to help with the school's beautification efforts, and also for helping with all the planting.

The school also thanks the **John Knox Village residents** for their dedication to the needs of the school's students and families. Orange City Elementary is grateful for the abundance of donations that the school constantly receives from John Knox Village to help ensure that the students do not go without.

The students of Orange City Elementary participated in the countywide **"Need Food" food drive**. The students alone collected 1,350 pounds of canned food.

Starke Elementary School

Starke Elementary School in DeLand held its first **"Teaming Up Against Bullying"** function, a teacher-student basketball game. The game ended in a 40-40 tie. Students playing included **Luis Deleon, Jocelyn Perez, Damien Dillard, Cassius Lindsey,**

Callon Buckner, Nashante Wyche, E'Nyah Gibson, Joel Pesante, Javier Jordan, Devoy Dawkins, JaQuarius Merrick, Jairo Lira, Allen Reed, Jilberto Ramirez, Brenda Lopez, Chunijah White, Jayden Lewis and Amariah Swint. The teachers and staff participating were Principal **Dwayne Copeland, Eilene Ahr, Valeria Wright, Linda Ammons, Melissa Potter, Joaquin Martinez, C.C. Hayden, Andrew Brown and Gary Elkins,** while **Sabrina Burnam-Hoyt** served as the announcer and the coach for the student team. The referees were **Amy Alvarez and Antonette Wilson-Smith.**

Starke has recognized **Sharon Evans** and **Sabrina Burnam-Hoyt** as the **Employees of the Month.** Evans works in the cafeteria, while Burnam-Hoyt is a physical-education teacher.

Friday, Dec. 11, is the last day for the **Candy Cane Holiday Shop.**

Starke Family Movie Night will be at 6 p.m. Friday, Dec. 11. Families will be watching *The Polar Express*, while the **PTA** will offer popcorn and other refreshments.

Starke will have its second annual **Koala Winterfest** 5-7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 17. There will be all kinds of booths for fun and games, as

well as things for sale.

Timbercrest Elementary School

Music students from **Timbercrest Elementary School in Deltona** joined many other fine musicians, dancers and drama students performing at the **DeLand Fall Festival of the Arts.**

The **Timbercrest Recorder Hot Shots** performed "Skyboat Song," "Variations of Tragic Barnyard Air" and "Jingle Bells." **Timbercrest Tiger Choir** voices floated through "Swing Low," "Jazzy Old St. Nicholas" and "Feliz Navidad." These pieces were directed by Timbercrest students **Anneliz Romero, Kylie Martin, Kelsea Cruz and Alyssa VanRiper,** while being accompanied by Timbercrest music teacher **Linda Zaudtke.**

Southwestern Middle School

The most recent **seventh-grade STAR students** at **Southwestern Middle School in DeLand** are **Paul Castro, Fernando Ramirez, Wyatt Wilson, Omeria Neloms and Karika Olvera Delgado.**

The most recent **eighth-grade STAR students** are

Devin Gearhart, John Carter, Skylar Woo, Brandon Roselle, Annaliese Sojka, Andrew Litteral and David Jolliffe.

The next **Southwestern School Advisory Council (SAC)/Parent Teacher Student Organization (PTSO)** meeting will be at 6 p.m. Monday, Dec. 14.

Southwestern yearbooks Reel Times at SMS are currently for sale for \$30. Students need to see **Tambra Heberlin** in Building 8, Room 6.

The following Southwestern students received positive referrals from Principal **Mamie Oatis: Soraya Gonzalez, Ayja Cusack, Gabriella Woo, Shailey Moore and Zachary Warendford.**

DeLand High School

Members of the public can meet **DeLand High School's** football coaches at 6 p.m. Friday, Dec. 11, at the Chisholm Community Center, 520 S. Clara Ave. in DeLand.

The football coaching staff will be introduced and will make short comments, followed by a community cookout. All is free and open to the public.

— Send school news to Tony Tussing via email: at flacoach43@hotmail.com.