

## Fitness & Sports

# Armed Forces tourney combined fierce action with sportsmanship, pride

By 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Celeste Rodriguez  
437 CS

Top basketball talent across the Department of Defense exchanged combat boots for court shoes as the 2000 Armed Forces Basketball Tournament slated three days of head-to-head competition, Nov. 15-17, among All-Star teams representing the Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps and Army.

After each service launched distinct cam-



Air Force Guard Eddie Dawkins (#11) beats Navy's Warren Hargrove (#34) for a lay-up.

paings for tournament gold in host Charleston Air Force Base's Starlifter Arena, Air Force finished on top with a 5-1 record, defeating the Marines in the competition's final game.

The fast-paced tournament's three days of double-header action challenged each service into revealing their unique strategies, talents and motivations.

Emerging victorious from the tournament, Air Force Head Coach Don Fellers led an experienced team with impressive talent spread across the entire roster.

Co-captain Edward Simpson, a technical sergeant from Keesler AFB, Miss., personified the team's patient and calculating demeanor leading the team with 81 points and 40 rebounds.

Meanwhile the smart combination of Vernon Turnbull, a technical sergeant from Robins AFB, Ga., and Mark Watley, a staff sergeant from Beale AFB, Calif., turned more than a few heads while the drive from Jarmica Reese, a first lieutenant from Los Angeles AFB, Calif., and Otis Jones, a captain from Pope AFB, N.C., took advantage of open defenses with quick drives and assists.

Following Air Force's final win over the Marines, the tournament concluded with a massive circle of handshakes and congratulations from all four services blurring the teams into one mass of red, gold, black and blue.

"Everyone from the coaches to the players to the refs made the tournament special," Fellers said. "When you win with friends it's just a good feeling."

The tournament's end called for a new beginning, as top performers from all four teams were chosen to comprise the All-Armed Forces Team, which will compete in the annual NATO



Photos by Staff Sgt. Larry Simmons, 1 CTCS

Air Force Guard Tyrone Wilson (#5) outmaneuvers Marine Corps's Co-captain Billy Shanks (#35) on an offensive drive.

Tournament in SHAPE, Belgium December 3-10. The United States delegation took gold both in 1997 and 1998, but dropped to a 5<sup>th</sup> place standing last year.

Even after four years on the U.S. Air Force Academy's NCAA Division I roster, Miguel Garcia plans to use the SHAPE tournament for furthering his abilities and expectations on the court. Garcia, a second lieutenant stationed at the academy in Colorado Springs, Colo., is spending his first assignment as the Academy Preparatory School's assistant men's basketball coach.

"I'll take back a more positive attitude to my players," Garcia said. "I see how the players should be treated by the coaches, and I can hopefully influence their attitudes in life through basketball."

Three members of the Air Force team made the All Armed Forces team. They were Garcia, Senior Airman Gregory Streeter, from Pope AFB, N.C., and Staff Sgt. Troy Myles, from Kirtland AFB, N.M.

For information about the Armed Forces Tournament, visit [www.armedforcesports.com](http://www.armedforcesports.com).

## Little Speedy runs away with week 12

By The Swami  
Pigskin Prognosticator

Two weeks ago it was the "Roadrunner," now someone named "Speedy" has taken the top spot of the pigskin pickers. The Swami bets they're related or maybe they're scared to divulge their real names with those ugly earlier weeks.

Anyhow, "Little Speedy" ran away with an 11-4 record, beating seven others with 10-5 records, including The Swami. There were a few surprises in week 12 action. The Bears and the Redskins winning—give me a break!

How about the Chargers? Did they choke or what? That would've been a big embarrassment for the Broncos and put a sock in John Canter's mouth.

Once again the Jets ate up the Dolphins. Vinny and the boys are back on track, so look out! The only sure thing every week is the Cowboys losing (most of the time).

The Swami sees there are many diehard fans of "The Boys" out there. It shows because every week they're at the bottom of the standings. Wake up and smell the coffee! Bob "Cowboy" Trout has the honor

of the cellar-dweller this week with his 6-9 record. Just think Bob, had you picked the Ravens you would have joined the other eight losers with 7-8 records.

The Swami is gaining ground in the yearly standings. "It won't be much longer and I'll be on top of the leader board. I like toying around with these amateur guessers. I've spent many years in this business and know how to work them," said The Swami.

With Thanksgiving upon us, let's all enjoy some good food with family and friends and watch the Vikings make mince meat of the Cowboys. Remember how nice The Swami was and picked the Vikings for everyone?

The other game on Thanksgiving will be the Patriots and the Lions. It just won't be the same without Barry Sanders running around our television sets anymore. Who else do they have now? Better yet, will anyone to watch either the Lions or Patriots?

Maybe there will be a good bowling match on TV instead. At 4 p.m., The Swami will sit back and get ready to laugh for a few hours while the Vikings chow down on the Cowboys. The Swami truly wishes (even the Dallas fans) a Happy Thanksgiving!

### Week Fourteen

Name/Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_  
Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Sunday, Dec. 3

**Arizona** @ Cincinnati  
Dallas @ **Tampa Bay**  
**Denver** @ New Orleans  
Miami @ **Buffalo**  
**New York Giants** @ Washington  
**Oakland** @ Pittsburgh  
**Seattle** @ Atlanta  
**St. Louis** @ Carolina  
**Tennessee** @ Philadelphia  
**San Francisco** @ San Diego  
Cleveland @ **Jacksonville**  
Indianapolis @ **New York Jets**  
**Green Bay** @ Chicago

#### Monday, Dec. 4

**Kansas City** @ New England  
Monday night total points: \_\_\_\_\_  
Swami's Monday night points: 41

Swami's picks are in bold and underlined. Send your picks to: Swami@charleston.af.mil. Picks can also be dropped at the Public Affairs office in Bldg. 1600 by Friday, Dec. 1, 4 p.m.