

SUP 1, Flyers unbeaten; SFS, Med Group close behind

By Senior Airman Michael Duhe
437 AW Public Affairs

Only two intramural basketball teams remain unbeaten -- Supply 1 and the Flyers -- but the Med Group and Security Forces are on their trail.

Supply 1 improved their record to 12-0 Monday by defeating the 437th Security Forces Squadron. That game was one of the biggest challenges the team has faced this season, according to Supply 1 head coach Kenneth Murray.

"It was the toughest game we've had so far," Murray said. "Security Forces has more height than any other team, and they had only one loss going into the game."

Murray said Supply 1's strong points are the speed of its guards, Derek McKay and Robbie Montague, and the experienced veterans of the team, such as Tony Jones. That combination has made the full-court press a successful tactic for the team this year.

"We have two of the toughest guards," he said. "They make a big difference in defense and they can pick up the pace of the game. Our veteran players use their heads and know how to control the game. They provide good leadership out there."

The team is setting their sights on a game against the Flyers Feb. 24. "The Flyers will be our biggest challenge," Murray said. "We're also looking forward to playing the Med Group."

The Flyers continued their unbeaten record Tuesday by defeating APS 1, 47-34. After trailing at half-time, 17-16, they gradually pulled



Senior Airman Jerome Suson

John Riordan (left) of the Flyers goes up for a jump shot as Travis Cornelius of APS 1 defends.

ahead and opened the lead.

The Flyers are now 11-0.

"So far, things have been going great," said Flyers head coach A.J. Smiley. "We've played some good ball. Our biggest challenge is with deployments -- having people in town and developing some kind of continuity."

Smiley said the team has a mix of both experienced players who know the game and younger guys who hustle. "It's a good blend. We can run with the younger teams."

Fortunately for the Flyers, deployments haven't hampered the num-

ber of players available for the games. Smiley said an average of eight to ten players have been showing up, ready to play, and 15 turned out for one game.

Next week will be a real test for the Flyers, as they face two other top four teams -- Security Forces and the Med Group.

"I'm calling this our 'championship run' this month," Smiley said. "All of our tough games are this month."

Smiley added that the team is confident about their chances to take

home the championship trophy.

Although the Medical Group has enjoyed a successful season, the team is losing three starting players over the next two weeks. Two are leaving to attend the Air Force Academy and one is separating from the military.

"We'll have some big shoes to fill," said head coach Wayne Lightburn.

Despite the loss of the starters, Lightburn is upbeat about the team's prospects of winning the base championship. "I think we have one of the strongest teams. We're up to the challenge."

The Medical Group team recently acquired six-foot-five center Bobby Caldwell through the intramural league's player's pool. Lightburn said he's a strong addition to the team, now at 10-1.

The Security Forces team is also a strong contender for the base championship. The team is currently 11-2.

"I think our strong points are our size -- we're bigger than most teams -- and a strong inside game," said forward Tim Stewart.

One challenge the team has faced so far is losing players because of deployments involved with the squadron's Raven program, Stewart said.

Security forces considers the Flyers the "team to beat" this season. "They have the best chemistry -- size, speed and players who know the fundamentals and the game," Stewart said.

"I think we have a pretty good chance to win the championship," he added. "If we play like we did the first 10 games, we can beat anybody."

All-women's sports may be offered

By Senior Airman Michael Duhe
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The Fitness and Sports Center is considering giving female athletes on base a league of their own.

According to fitness center director Steve Parrish, the word is going out to unit commanders and first sergeants on base in hopes of generating enough interest to form an all-woman league.

"The intramural program is co-ed, but it seems to be a male-dominated program," Parrish pointed out. "This is because we have such a large population of active-duty males on base."

The women's sports league would be offered to a wide segment of the base population -- active-duty members, spouses of military members, Reservists and DoD civilian employees.

Squadrons could organize teams for both the intramural and women's sports leagues, Parrish said. Sports seasons would include competition in both leagues, and female athletes would be allowed to participate in both, if they chose.

"I think it would be a great thing," said Melissa MacMurray, who plays on the 437th Medical Group intramural basketball team. "I would join."

Fitness center officials are looking at volleyball season (which begins in March) to organize the league, according to Parrish.

"What we'd like to do is to see squadrons poll their work places and let us know if they have enough women who want to make a team," Parrish

explained. "Hopefully we can get several squadrons who can do that."

Some units are traditionally male-dominated. If there are not enough women interested to form a squadron team, they may submit their names for a league player's pool. These players would join existing teams. Another option would be to combine teams.

Once it appears there is enough interest to form the league, an organizational meeting would be called and a game schedule drawn up, Parrish said.

"With what we've learned from volleyball, we'll move forward to softball in April or May," Parrish said.

The league would compete in all sports, including flag football, and players at all skill levels will feel comfortable.

"The all-women's league will be for the athlete and for those who would like to learn about the sport," Parrish explained. "It's for both the experienced athlete and the woman who would like to get into athletics and be part of a team."

Those interested in playing in the women's league should contact their unit sports representative. If they would like to be included in the league's player's pool, they should call the fitness center at 963-3347 and leave their name, unit and phone number.

"I'd like to think that with the size of the base and the workforce it has, we should be able to get a fairly good-sized league, and see the program grow and evolve," Parrish said.

Intramural standings

Basketball	W	L
Sup 1	12	0
Flyers	11	0
Med Grp	11	1
SFS	12	2
437 AGS 1	8	3
Sup 2	10	4
EMS	5	3
CRS	6	6
Navy Hosp	5	6
LSS/CPTS	4	5
1 CTCS	5	7
437 AGS 3	3	5
APS 1	5	9
CES	3	6
LGT	3	8
437 AW	1	10
Racquetball	W	L
SFS	16	2
437 AGS 1	17	4
373 TRS	12	6
CS	13	8
437 AW	12	9
1 CTCS	10	8
CES	10	8
APS	10	11
CRS	6	15
SUP	5	13
EMS	4	17
437 AGS 2	2	16