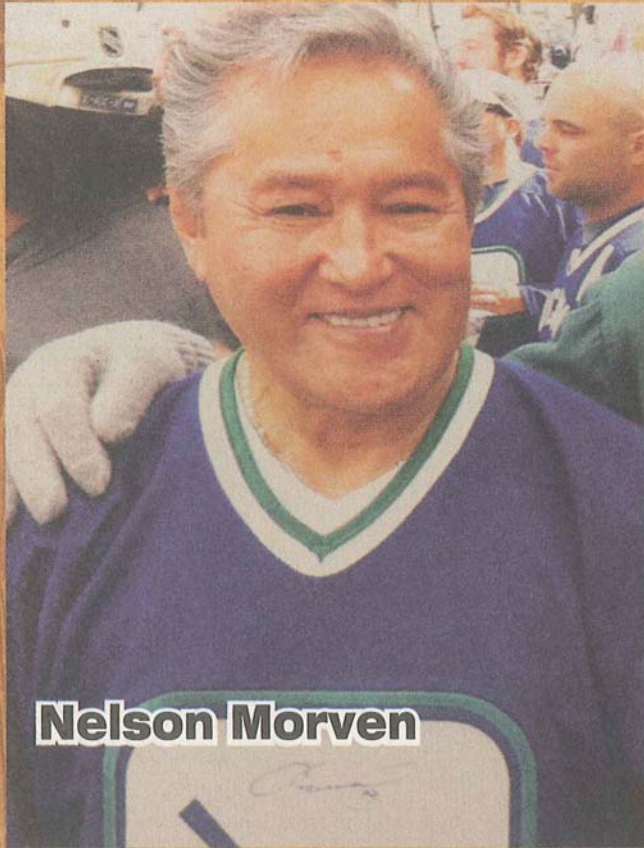


The Beginning



Nelson Morven

“They said to Garfield, ‘You should think about having an Easter tournament in Prince Rupert...’”

The rest is history

The evening the All Native Basketball Tournament started

By Shannon Lough

It was a summer evening in Prince Rupert 1959 when a group of men sat around a table discussing how they could organize an all native basketball tournament in the city.

Nelson Morven was at the table as the crucial conversation happened.

He lived in Prince Rupert but was originally from New Aiyansh where another tournament of same type was attempted in the late 1940s. The tournament wasn't feasible for the area where there was no road access in the Nass Valley. Teams had to arrive by fish boat to Kincolith and take a river boat to get to the Aiyansh tournament.

The Aiyansh community was also too small a venue to support the teams. The president of ANBT, Peter Haugan has been involved in the tournament since he was 13-years-old and he recites the story as told to him by Morven.

Basketball teams had come from all over the place to play.

“The players were put in homes and ate the whole deep freeze empty by the time they left. They just cleaned the place out,” he said.

In the summer of 1959, Morven was playing in a native soccer tournament in Prince Rupert, which was sponsored by the owner of the Empress Hotel, Erwin Garfield.

Continued on Page 33

The Beginning

"It perked up the ears of Garfield who had seen the competitiveness between the different villages."

Peter Haugan

After the game, Morven and his teammates headed over to the Empress Hotel for a beer. They met up with Garfield, who also happened to be the sponsor of a native basketball team.

"They said to Garfield, 'You should think about having an Easter tournament in Prince Rupert. We tried it up in Aiyansh but it was way too big for our community'," Haugan said. "It perked up the ears of Garfield who had seen the competitiveness between the different villages."

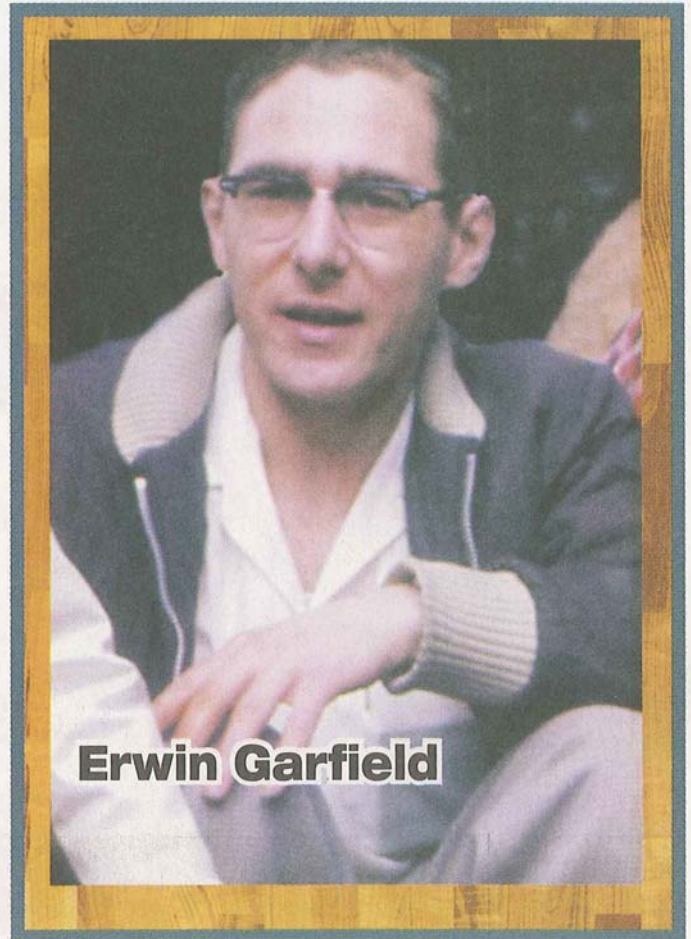
Garfield was an avid sports fan and used to travel by river boat to some of the tournaments in Aiyansh and elsewhere. Garfield was intrigued and so was his business partner who owned the Royal Hotel. "They started up the idea of having these tournaments between intermediates and seniors and they did all this organizing in 1959."

Prince Rupert was booming at the time. It could host an influx of players and fans with an abundance of hotels and restaurants, and it was easier to access than Aiyansh and other communities. The group incorporated the Prince Rupert Basketball Association because they were already organized, they had referees and a bit of money to get a head start on funding the tournament.

The original organizers were hotel owners and business men. "They had no money to start the first tournament so Nelson Morven said they went around to all different kinds of businesses and whatever they needed they got it on credit because they were well known business men in town," Haugan said.

The first All Native Basketball Tournament was launched in 1960. It was such a sensation that ticket sales from that first tournament enabled organizers to pay back what they owed to the other businesses that had helped with the start up costs.

In the beginning, the annual tournament was held at the old civic centre but it burnt down and the tournament moved to Prince Rupert Secondary School until the new civic centre was built in



Erwin Garfield

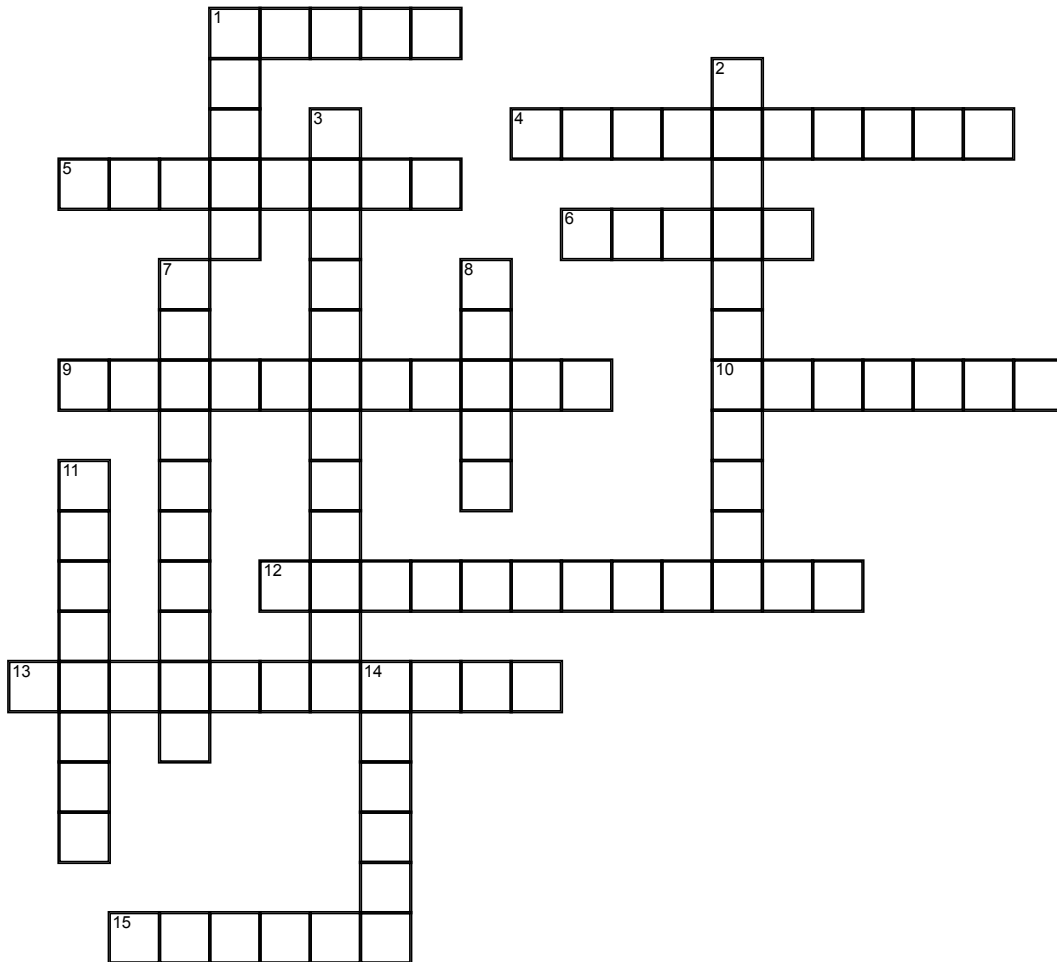
the early 1970s. Each year the tournament grew. "Myself, being a high school coach of the girls, I had a lot of really good First Nations players that played for me but there was no tournament for them to play in. I was an advocate for getting them into the All Native tournament," Haugan said.

At the same time Frank Parnell tried to bring a Masters' Division into the tournament. In 1993, both the women and the Masters were given space to play and the tournament doubled in size.

Then the food, arts and crafts marketplace was included as part of the tournament. "It very quickly became a cultural event," Haugan said adding that the opening ceremonies is also another important part of the tournament.

It all began when a group of Nass Valley First Nations from Aiyansh, and some Prince Rupert business and hotel owners sat around a table with a pint of beer and mulled over the idea of organizing an all native basketball tournament. It was an instant success that has lasted 57 years to date.

ANBT: the Beginning



Across

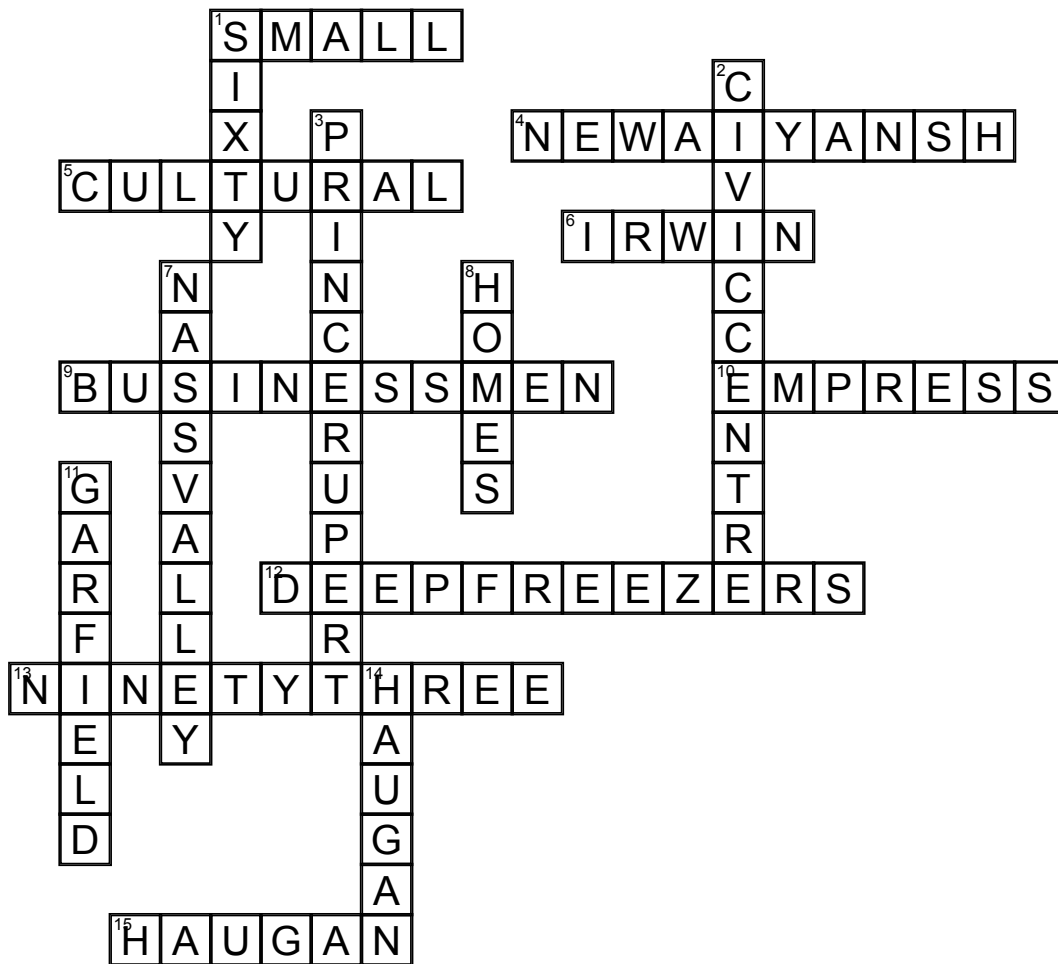
- 1 Previous community was too ___ to suport teams
- 4 Where a tournament was attempted in 1940s
- 5 Food arts ant crafts added making it a ____ event.
- 6 Garfield's first name
- 9 Original organizers
- 10 Hotel where idea started
- 12 Emptied when players visited communitis to play in 40's
- 13 Year that masters and women's divisions were added: 19____
- 15 Involved in tournament since he was 13

Down

- 1 Date of first ANBT: 19__
- 2 Tournament first held in
- 3 A booming town big enough to host tournament
- 7 No road access here at the time
- 8 Players in the 40's stayed in _____
- 11 Owner of Empress Hotel
- 14 Author of article

ANBT: the Beginning

Answer Key



Across

- 1 Previous community was too ___ to suport teams
- 4 Where a tournament was attempted in 1940s
- 5 Food arts ant crafts added making it a ____ event.
- 6 Garfield's first name
- 9 Original organizers
- 10 Hotel where idea started
- 12 Emptied when players visited communities to play in 40's
- 13 Year that masters and women's divisions were added: 19____
- 15 Involved in tournament since he was 13

Down

- 1 Date of first ANBT: 19__
- 2 Tournament first held in
- 3 A booming town big enough to host tournament
- 7 No road access here at the time
- 8 Players in the 40's stayed in _____
- 11 Owner of Empress Hotel
- 14 Author of article

What's this?! Woman plays!

By Rudy Kelly

There was about seven minutes left in the Metlakatla Trojans vs New Aiyansh game last night, with the Trojans well on their way to making New Aiyansh the latest casualty in the 33rd All Native Basketball Tournament. And then, *she* was there, out on the floor, wearing a Trojans uniform. You couldn't miss her. The first woman to play in the All Native.

Roberta Edzerza, one of the best woman basketball players in Prince Rupert, was a sight one couldn't help but notice, standing out there in what for 32 previous years had been a man's world. Welcome to 1992.

"I just wanted to play in the All Native," she said, fully aware of the ramifications. "So I asked the Trojans if they needed someone."

She chose the Trojans because she knew all of the players and "they're a pretty popular team, everybody knows the Trojans."

Most fans just greeted her appearance with a smile, although there were a few grim faces, unhappy with the intrusion.

Said one lady: "They should have put her in a long time ago."

Haida Nation star Sid Edenshaw said, stone-faced, "No comment from me."

She obviously knew what she was doing out there. After all, basketball is basketball, and the rules and strategies are the same for women and men. Size and strength are another matter though.

She was unable to score until just before the final seconds ticked off, a completely unimpeded layup with the New Aiyansh players halfway to the bench. But it *was* the first time a woman had scored in this tournament, this *men's* tournament. She had missed an easy shot just

before that, air balling a ten-footer.

"I was pretty nervous, I don't usually air-ball," she smiled after the game.

It would've been easy for her to accept the space some of the opposition was willing to give her but she said that was the last thing she wanted. No quarter given, none asked for.

"One guy said he would let me shoot but I said 'Why? Don't bother.' I didn't want any special privileges."

Edzerza, a former Rainbird, has played basketball in Rupert for most of her life and currently plays for the Tsimshian Nation team, formerly Lax Kw'Alaams, the most dominant women's team in the northwest.

Naturally, Edzerza's playing has the All Native Tournament Committee in a bit of a strange situation. But Trojan Butch Fregin, who Edzerza first approached to ask to play, said the ANTC's views were respected and they were consulted well ahead of time.

"We wrote a letter to the committee saying that we had her on our roster and they made a ruling," said Fregin. That ruling was basically that there is no rule stipulating that a woman cannot play in the tournament.

ANTC Chairman Clarence Martin, looking a little embarrassed, said the committee simply hadn't prepared for such an occurrence and couldn't do anything to stop Edzerza without a rule in place. He

said they will definitely address the matter before the next tourney. Fellow committee member Russell Gamble said the ANTC would "wait and see what kind of feedback we get from the teams."

"I haven't thought about what I'll do if they put in a no-women rule," said Edzerza, and that she would wait and see and take it from there. She was even surprised she got in so easy this time.

"I thought they (ANTC) would put up a fight but I like a challenge," she said. "I just hope it opens doors for other ladies."

Edzerza, a former Rainbird, has played basketball in Rupert for most of her life and currently plays for the Tsimshian Nation team, formerly Lax Kw'Alaams, the most dominant women's team in the northwest. Tsimshian plans to travel to Los Angeles this spring and play in the U.S. nationals. The team is so good, that is part of the reason she wanted into the All Native, to play better competition.

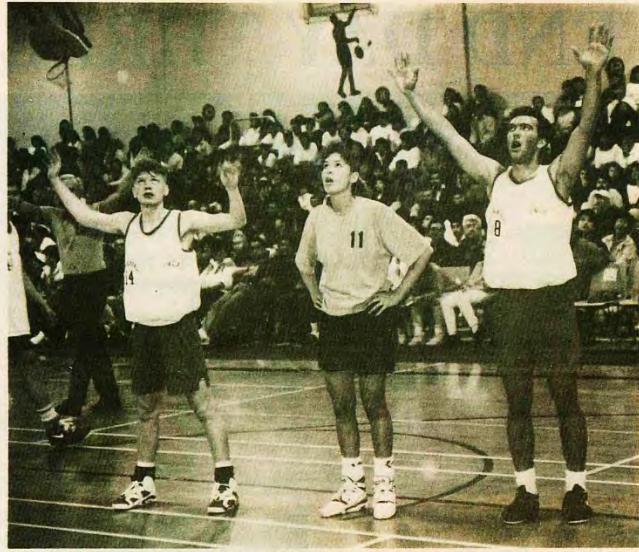
"Our team played in the 'C' league tourney at Christmas and we played well. I like playing with the guys, that way I get to try at 150 per cent."

The Trojans are, obviously, impressed.

"When she first asked I told her I'd have to have a meeting with the team to discuss it. So, we had our meeting and no one had a problem with it," said Fregin.

"We were looking at a couple of guys but it didn't happen. We told her she probably wouldn't play much. She was a little nervous but she can play."

Last night, Edzerza came in with the game well in hand. Would the Trojans consider playing her in a close game? Fregin smiled, "We got lots of guys."

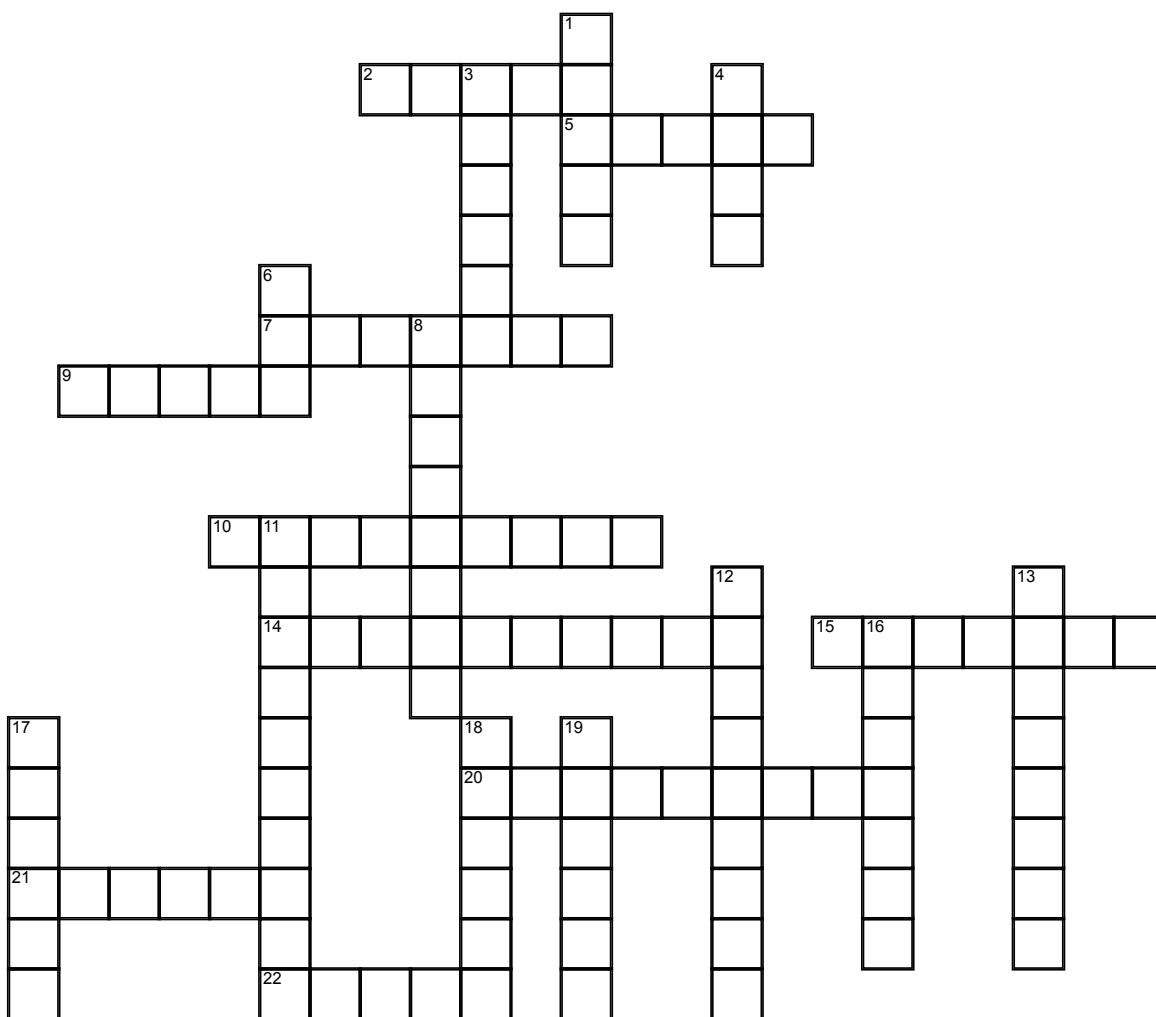


John Stevens (left) and David Griffin, Jr. stand on either side of Roberta Edzerza during last night's game between the Metlakatta Trojans and New Alyansh. Edzerza certainly caught everyone's attention and was the story of Day Three at the All Native.



Roberta Edzerza, above, broke new ground by being the first woman to play in the senior men's division last year for the M.A.C. Trojans. This year, there is a women's division for the first time, along with a Masters division. (Kelly photo)

ANBT First Female Player



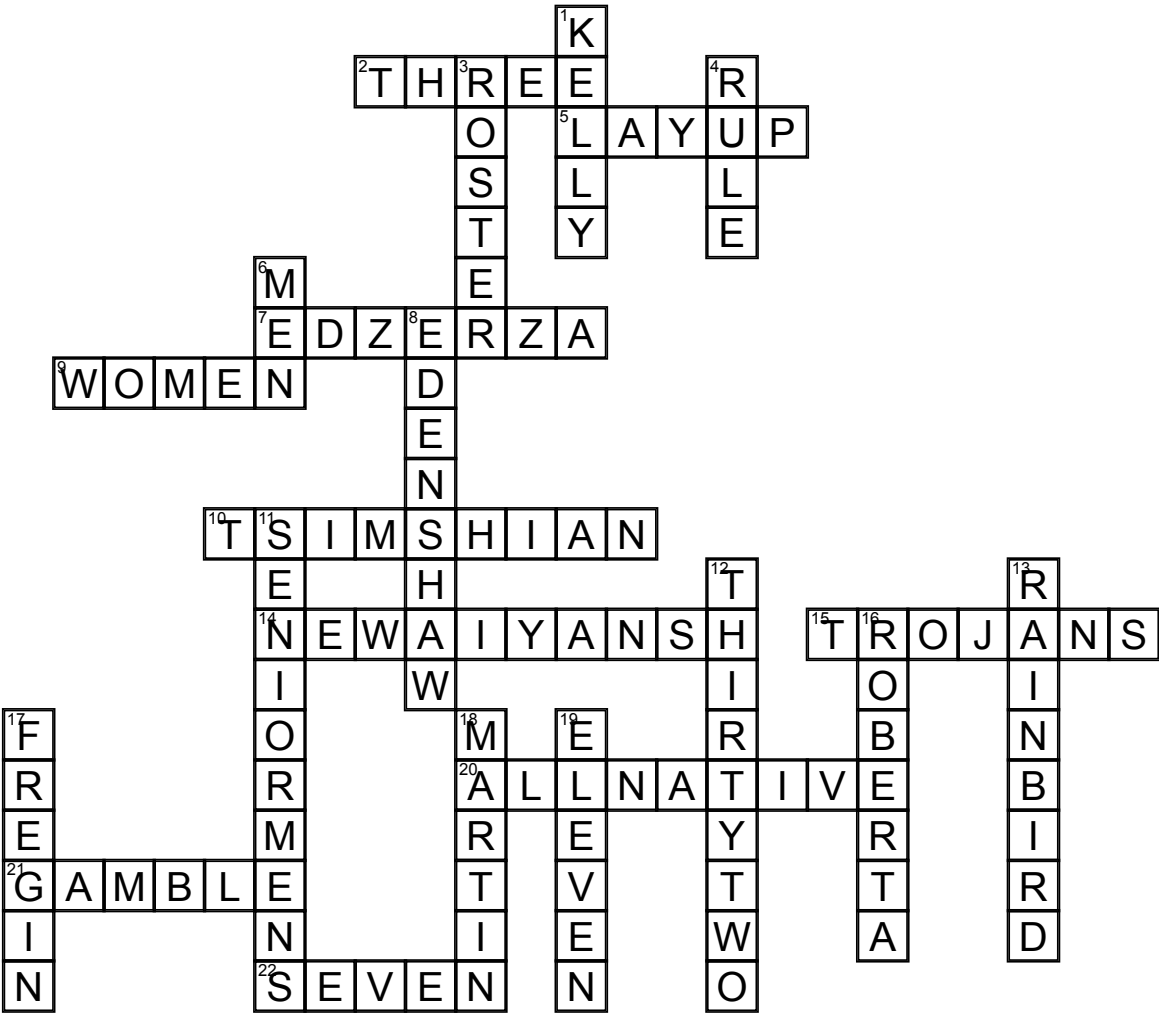
Across

- 2 Played on which day of tournament
- 5 Scored with a
- 7 First female player
- 9 No rule that ___ can't play
- 10 Plays for which Nation?
- 14 Team they played against
- 15 Team she played for?
- 20 Name of basketball tournament
- 21 Fellow committee member
- 22 Minutes left in game when she entered game

Down

- 1 Author
- 3 List of team members
- 4 Couldn't stop her without a ___
- 6 Played with all the
- 8 Haida player with no comment
- 11 Division
- 12 Number of tournaments without women players
- 13 Former team
- 16 Her first name
- 17 First approached
- 18 ANTC chairman
- 19 Jersey number

Answer Key



2016 HALL OF FAME**Roberta Edzerza****Trail Blazer***By Shannon Lough*

There may not have been a Women's Division at the All Native Basketball Tournament if it wasn't for Roberta Edzerza, one of the Hall of Fame inductee's for 2016.

In 1992, Edzerza started to ask questions about why women weren't playing in the tournament. There weren't any rules prohibiting women and it wasn't defined as a men's-only tournament so she asked the Metlakatla Trojans if she could play on their team.

"I knew I wasn't at that calibre but I wanted to prove that girls could play," she said. "I was nervous. I think my biggest fear was other people thinking that I was better and that's not the motive. Look, girls want to play in this sport and they can. That was it. I just wanted to play basketball in the [ANBT]."

She was put on the roster and that year she was the first female to play in the tournament. In the final game, the team was losing and the coach put her into the game. She scored two points and made the newspaper as a trailblazer.

"This is a sport that women want to play in. It's a cultural event. I think it stirred up a few things because the next year there was a women's division," Edzerza said.

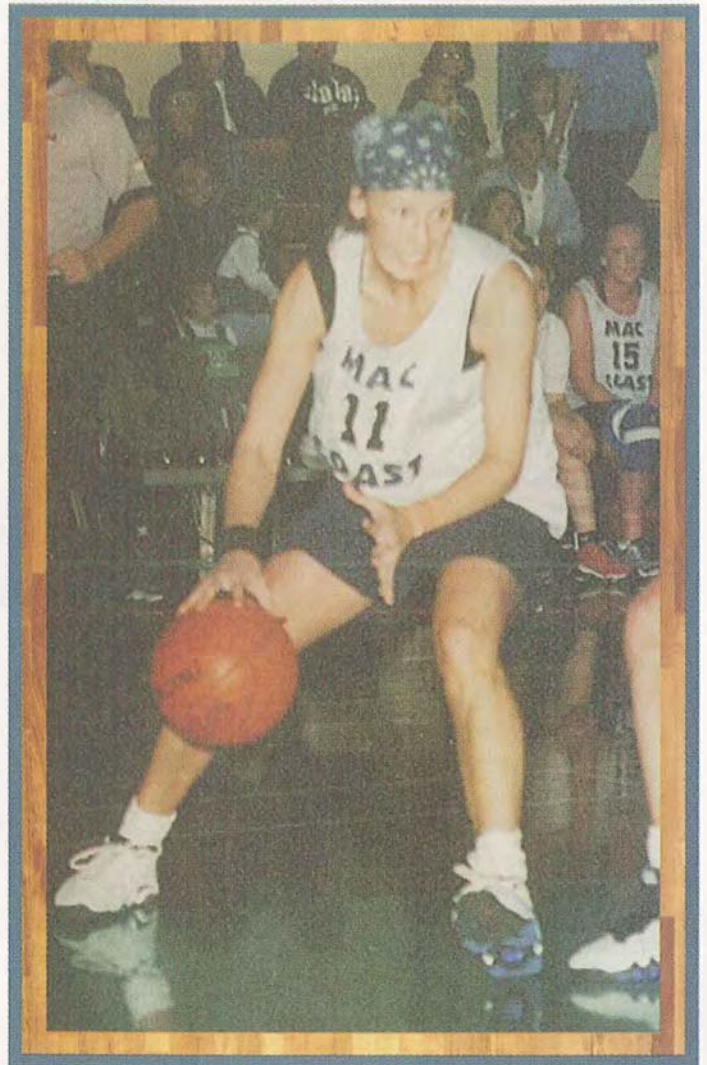
She remembers asking some members of the committee why there wasn't a Women's Division and one comment was that no one would come and watch. That theory was put to the test in 1993 when the women were finally given a space in the tournament to compete against each other.

"I think we had one of the biggest crowds in the final that year," she said proving the naysayers wrong.

Edzerza was an athlete from childhood. She was in Metlakatla until Grade 2 and then her family moved to Prince Rupert.

In elementary school she signed up for anything she could join including soccer, badminton, track and field, floor hockey — and of course basketball. Even then she wasn't on the sidelines when it was an all-boys team or league, she was playing.

Basketball wasn't a serious endeavour for her until



Grade 9. She had played the year prior and found herself the last one off the bench.

"Then I thought, 'This isn't happening again,' and I worked all summer," she said. By Grade 9 she played forward as a starter for a Grade 10 team.

"I'm not going to be a bench-warmer anymore," she had thought then and it stuck.

In the early 1980s, at 15-years-old she was picked up by the ladies' team in Port Simpson for the Lax Kw'alaams team. The team would fundraise all year and then began to travel to tournaments.

Continued on Page 11

Roberta Edzerza

Edzerza travelled with the team to Alaska and for the next five years, they played in National Aboriginal tournaments in the U.S. representing Canada.

Each state hosted the Aboriginal Basketball Nations Tournament differently but they involved women's and men's divisions. Edzerza played in South Dakota, Seattle, Los Angeles and Phoenix, Arizona.

"We played because there wasn't the All Native for us," she said.

Then she enrolled in general studies at Capilano College to play more basketball.

"Basketball kept me in school. I enjoyed school. I loved the experience but basketball just made it a better, richer experience with the basketball trips," she said.

After two years of studies at the college she went to university to get into teaching. She is now the district principal for aboriginal education in Prince Rupert.

During her studies she realized she couldn't continue to pursue both her education and basketball so she took a brief hiatus from the latter.

Edzerza has played in the All Native tournament on and off from 1992 up until 2014. She took a break to recover from two knee surgeries and an Achilles tendon rupture, all basketball-related injuries.

Throughout her basketball career her mother has been her number one fan.

"I'd be in my forties and she'd still come," she said. "Cancer didn't stop her from coming. She was always there and still is."

Some of her fondest memories were playing for Metlakatla, a small but mighty team.

"When we would play the heart of Metlakatla would come out and come cheer for us. They would all wear red and they'd be the loudest fans but the smallest group. Everybody would come out. It was just a great feeling of pride," Edzerza said.

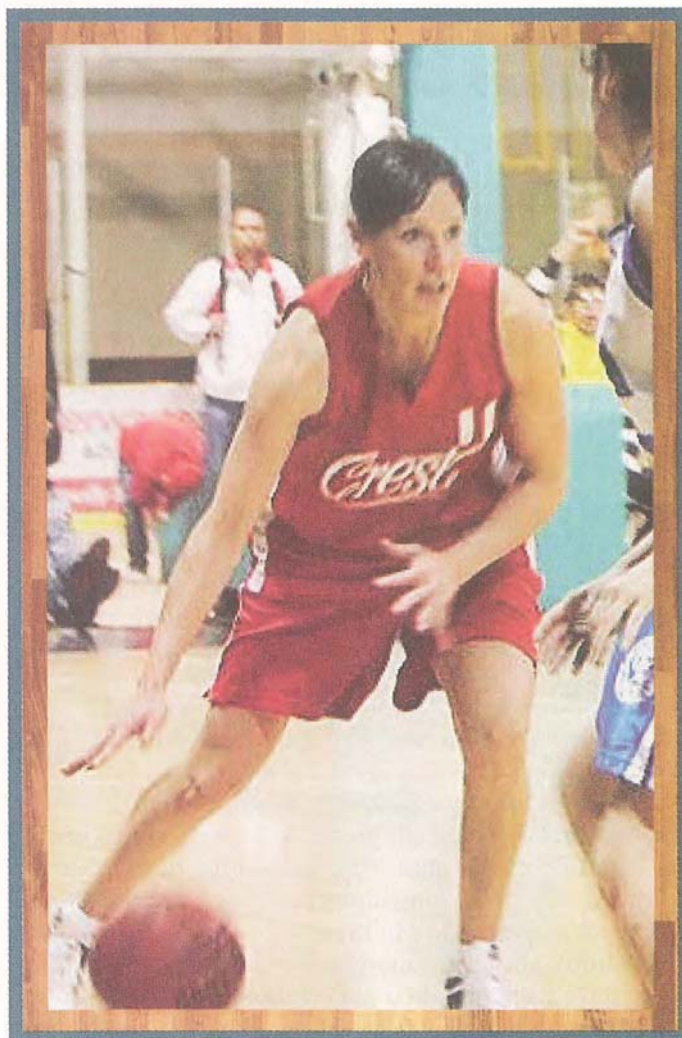
Her younger sister, Judy Carlick-Pearson is also a Hall of Famer.

"My sister has always been my inspiration," Carlick-Pearson said.

Carlick-Pearson is eight years younger than her sister and said that in her 20-plus years of playing basketball Roberta has been the most fierce defender she's ever played against.

"She could shut me down," she said. "It took me eight years of playing against her one-on-one to actually beat her in a basketball court at night in Prince Rupert with our mom refereeing."

The sisters played against each other in the first women's All-Native final: Edzerza played for Nanaimo and Carlick-Pearson was with Kaien Island, the



winning team that year. From there on they were teammates on a number of different teams.

"Roberta was definitely the backbone of our team and even though she didn't get as many trophies as she deserved she was definitely the glue of all our championships," Carlick-Pearson said.

Although Edzerza will not be playing at the tournament this year she will be there to cheer on her sister and her 16-year-old son who is playing for the Prince Rupert team, the Synergy Storm.

Edzerza's final year in the tournament left her on a high note and a memory to savour.

In 2014, in the final game, she pulled her hamstring. A physiotherapist worked on her and she was able to get back on the court. With seconds left on the clock she scored the winning basket.

"I was limping around but it was a good note to leave on," she said.



20 years and look how far we've come...

Celebrating two decades of Women and Masters hoops

Over the past 54 years the All Native Basketball Tournament has undergone many changes, but there have been none as impactful as the addition of the Womens and Masters Divisions in 1993.

Creating new divisions

In 1993, the All Native Basketball Tournament entered its 34th year and crowds packed what is now the Jim Ciccone Civic Centre to witness exciting basketball action.

It would have been easy to stay the course and keep the tournament the same as it had been for more than three decades, but organizers at the time recognized that something was missing – players who had left their blood, sweat and tears on the court in years past were unable to continue their competitive careers and, in a time of evolving gender roles, women were still relegated to being just fans of the games.

Two of the biggest supporters of expanding the tournament were current chair Peter Haugan and committee member Frank Parnell. Haugan was coaching the girls team at Charles Hays at the time and was looking for a way to let his players carry on their basketball careers outside of the school while Parnell was looking for a way players could continue to compete as they got older.

But expanding the tournament wouldn't be as easy as simply opening it up to the two divisions, there would need to be a second venue added to the tournament and more costs.

"Art Sterritt [tournament chair] asked Jim Ciccone [treasurer] if we had the money. Jim was an optimistic person, he was never negative and Jim said we could afford it for one year," Haugan said.

"Jim was like that. He was always all about trying new things."

At the time, games were strictly played in the civic centre, and fitting the number of games needed for four divisions onto one court within a week simply wasn't possible.

"We, as a board, knew the logistics... We had to



In 20 years,
more than 2,500
women have
competed in
the All Native
Tournament

Kaien Island and Nanaimo tip-off in the final game of the inaugural women's tournament in 1993.

rent out the high school and pay for two more divisions of per diems, scorekeepers, officials and, of course, the rent," Haugan said.

With Parnell backing the Masters, Haugan behind the women and Ciccone opening up the chequebook, the All Native Tournament committee took the gamble and opened up the tournament to two new divisions.

On Feb. 8, the 1 p.m. tip-off between the Greenville and Kitkatla women at Charles Hays Secondary School not only opened the 34th All Native Basketball Tournament but ushered in a new era for sports fans.

The first tournament

The players in the inaugural Women's and Masters' tournaments in 1993 set the bar high for future years, with some exciting and memorable action on the courts.

On the Women's side there were eight teams competing – Kaien Island, Kitamaat, the Port Simpson Bravettes, Tsimshian Nation, Greenville, Nanaimo and Metlakatla Alaska.

Continued on Page 14



New divisions add a new dimension...

From Page 13

Demonstrating the popularity of the new division, a total of 16 applications were received and teams were welcomed on a first-come, first-served basis.

After losing to Nanaimo in the semi-finals, the Kaien Island squad came in through the back door for a rematch that ranks among the best in tournament history. Kaien Island led 43-31 at the half, but a surge by Nanaimo saw them trailing 65-61 late in the game. However, the Kaien women were persistent and, after a three-pointer pulled the Rupert squad to within one, a series of foul shots ended up giving Kaien Island the first Women's banner with a 67-65 final.

Kaien Island was led by tournament high scorer and MVP Judy Carlick, who sank the foul shots that won the game, with 17 points.

"Going out there was pretty impressive because a lot of the fans were not used to seeing women playing," said Carlick, noting her sister Roberta Edzerza was actually the first woman to play in the tournament as part of the men's Prince Rupert Trojans the previous year.

"We were 15 years old and had just won the Junior All Native the year before that, but being 15 years old you don't think of nerves or anything you just go out and play."

There were also eight teams competing in the Masters' division – the Prince Rupert Legends, Port Simpson Hoopsters, Aiyansh, Greenville, Kincolith, Kitamaat, Metlakatla, Alaska and Klawock, Alaska — although the result was less in question. The Metlakatla, Alaska squad ran through the competition before coming up against a very competitive Kitamaat squad that lost in the semi-finals 100-95. After making it back into the finals, the Kitamaat team trailed by just four points at the half. But in the second half Metlakatla began to fire on all cylinders and put up an impressive 64 points to walk away with the first Masters' division trophy with a 121-96 victory.



Percy Williams of Skidegate is the oldest player to take the court in All Native Tournament history

Gerald Amos, who is still playing today, drives for the basket against Metlakatla, Alaska in the 1993 Masters' final.

"I was relieved to be able to continue to play, to be honest"

– Gerald Amos

Larry Hudson, the MVP for the tournament, tallied 42 points in the victory.

Across the court from Hudson stood Gerald Amos, a Hall of Famer who was part of the Haisla Dynasty of the 1970s and won back-to-back Senior division MVP trophies in 1977 and 1978. Although the team came out on the wrong side of the score, Amos said it was a tournament

to remember.

"I was relieved to be able to continue to play, to be honest. There were enough players of my age group and generation that the division really took off," he said.

"I simply love playing basketball. I've been playing since I was 12 or 13 and met a lot of good friends I was able to keep playing with in the Masters' division."

With the first tournament a resounding success, there was nothing but growth ahead for the Women's and Masters' divisions.

Continued on Page 15



The tournament comes together...

Under one roof

As the popularity of the two new divisions grew, the tournament committee looked at ways of making the action more accessible to tournament fans. For years spectators had to make their way back and forth from the civic centre to Charles Hays Secondary School, but the committee wanted that changed.

“At the time, the tournament committee chair was Art Sterritt and it was his dream to have it all under one roof and not have to bus fans back and forth to Charles Hays,” explained current tournament president Peter Haugan.

“We tried it out the arena at first, renting the court from the arena in Kamloops, and we realized that it was too cold so we had to purchase the underlay for the floor from GM Place. The basketball nets we use right now came from the Vancouver Grizzlies practice gym.”

After getting the system in place in the mid-1990s, the tournament spent \$80,000 to purchase a portable floor from the University of Central Florida. The floor was shipped up to Toronto where it was stripped down and painted before coming to Prince Rupert. By the time the floor arrived, the total bill for the new portable court was more than \$100,000.

“It was definitely worth it, to get everyone under one roof was a huge success,” said Haugan.

“It is so much easier for the fans. If we sell a tournament pass they can go back and forth between the four divisions, and if we sell an afternoon pass then the fans can watch whichever games they want.”

Women only

Despite being around for more than 50 years at



ANT nets were formerly used by the NBA Vancouver Grizzlies

Denise Wilson drives to the hoop during 2012 ANBT action.

“To get everyone under one roof was a huge success.”

– Peter Haugan

the time, All Native Basketball Tournament history was made in 2009. For the first time ever, everyone on the court was female and there were no men to be found. The milestone was made possible with the arrival of referees Kristen Reeves in 2008 and Brittany Wiens in 2009.

Having all women on the court showed that the days of the All Native Basketball Tournament being a men’s-only event were definitely over. In fact, this year there will be three female officials.

The legacy of the divisions

Today the Masters’ and Women’s divisions are an integral part of the All Native Basketball Tournament, drawing in new fans and giving young ladies something to look forward to as they grow up.

Continued on Page 16



Inspiring the future of the tournament...

From Page 15

The tournament has grown from eight teams taking to the court in 1993 to 14 Women's teams and 12 Masters teams competing 20 years later. To date the two divisions have also been very competitive – no team has managed to win more than three consecutive tournaments in either division and 10 different communities have claimed the championship banner over the past 20 years.

And like the Intermediate and Seniors divisions before them the Masters' and the Women's division have begun crafting their own history - games that came down to the final buzzer or overtime are still talked about, Judy Carlick-Pearson and Gayle Bedard are deserving Hall of Famers for their career accomplishments and the respective communities comes out en-masse to cheer on their teams as the tournament progresses.

Carlick, who said her induction into the Hall of Fame showed that women and men who work hard have equal opportunity in the tournament, said she's seen a lot of changes in the past two decades.

"Back then the women's teams didn't have uniforms, it was just a mish-mash of jerseys and some players didn't even have numbers... If you look at it now we have full uniforms, track suits and the arena is often as full as the gym," she said, adding that the competition is also a lot more fierce and the ages are more varied.

"Back in 1993 we were the youngest team, and the age of the players was younger than a lot of players now. If you look today we have girls from 12 years old to 60-year-old women playing, and a lot of the players are coming back from playing college basketball."

Brittany Williams, last year's Women's Division



The ages of women All Native basketball players range from 12 to 60 years

Young players like 2011 MVP Adelia Paul find themselves playing with women they grew up watching.

"I grew up watching my mom play and looking up to her..."

- Brittany Williams
2012 Women's MVP

MVP from Nanaimo, said the tournament does a lot for the players on the court and future generations of First Nations girls.

"I grew up watching my mom play and looking up to her, she was a very good basketball player. Me going there, playing and doing what she did provides a positive outlook for my daughter to go out and do this when she gets older. I want her to look up to me, and that is why I take her to all the

tournaments I go to. I think it's a good thing for young girls," she said.

"Women's sports isn't very big, even down here, and that is why I love going to the All Native Basketball Tournament. There is quite a few teams from everywhere and great competition."

Conclusion on Page 17



Masters show the kids how it's done...

From Page 16

Another dimension the new divisions added to the All Native Basketball Tournament was to not only allow younger fans to see the Hall of Fame players that paved the path for today's players, but also for active players to be inducted into the Hall of Fame one night and take to the court the next night. One such player to have that rare experience was Cliff Starr Jr. of Bella Bella, who was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2010 while playing on the championship Bella Bella Masters team.

"It was an awesome time for me, I really enjoyed it... The Masters' division is great because it gives us an opportunity to continue playing. We get to see the friends we have played against for so many years in the Intermediate and Senior divisions," said Starr, who noted the Masters can serve as role models for the younger members of the community.

"It keeps a lot of us active and encourages us to keep a healthy lifestyle, and that permeates down to the other divisions. The Intermediates see that you can stay active and competitive as you get a little older."

Gerald Amos, who is now 64, will be back on the court in 2013 with the Haisla Nation making him one of, if not the only, player to compete in six different decades. In his two decades in the Masters' division, Gerald said he's seen quite the changes on the court.

"There are players now who could easily compete in the Senior division, and I hope that is a trend that continues. If you look at the NHL or the NBA, there are still players that are competitive in their late 30s and early 40s," he said.

"The teams keep getting younger and younger. Last year we played against Kincolith and Kitkatla and I was joking with them on the court saying whether we won or lost we would protest because



Gerald Amos is competing in his sixth decade of competitive basketball, equalling hockey's ironman Gordie Howe

Masters players have become role models in the tournament for their active lifestyle and how they represent the community.

"The Intermediates see you can stay active and competitive as you get older."

- Cliff Starr Jr.

they had teenagers on their team," he added with a chuckle.

The legacy of the divisions

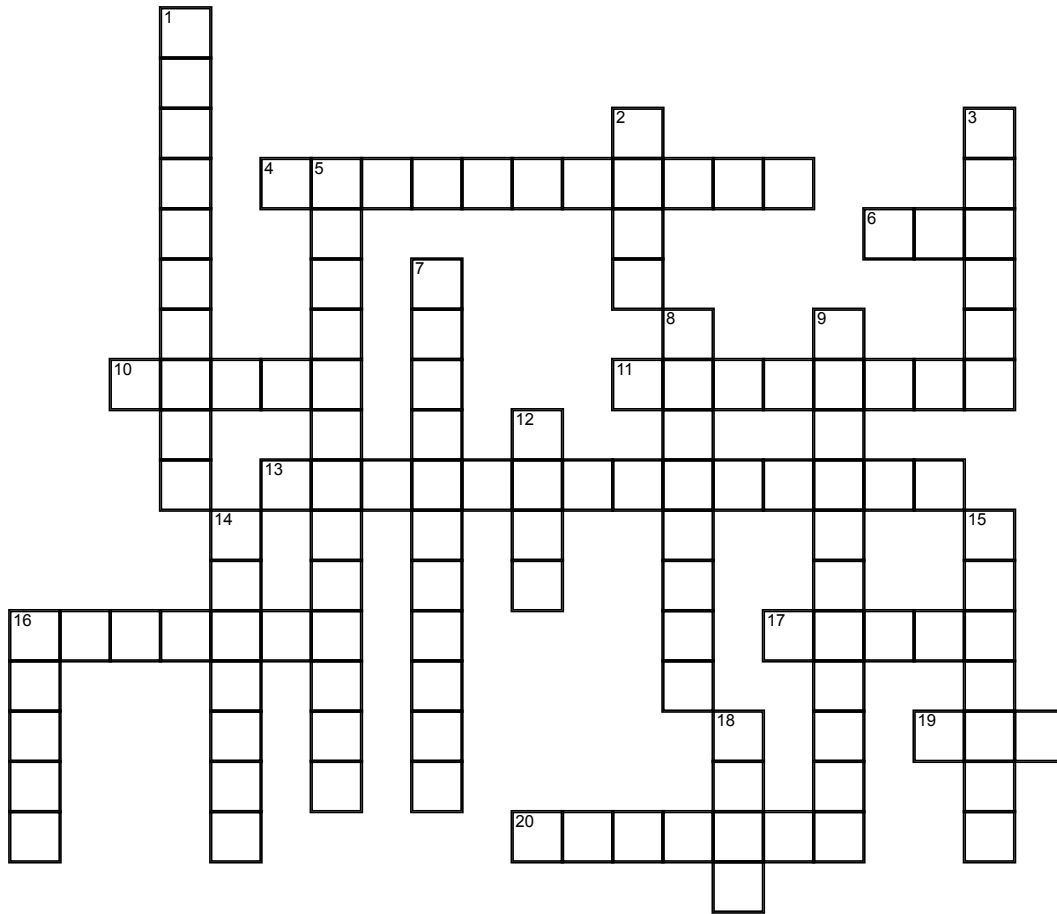
Without the addition of the Masters' and the Women's divisions, the All Native Basketball Tournament would have continued to be a success and would undoubtedly still been running today.

But the addition of the two divisions added so much more to an already major event and allowed even more people to experience the excitement of competing in All Native Basketball Tournament.

The Women and the Masters have only been in the All Native Tournament for two decades, less than half of the modern tournament's history. And yet it is hard to imagine a year without them.

-Shaun Thomas

20 Years of Women and Masters

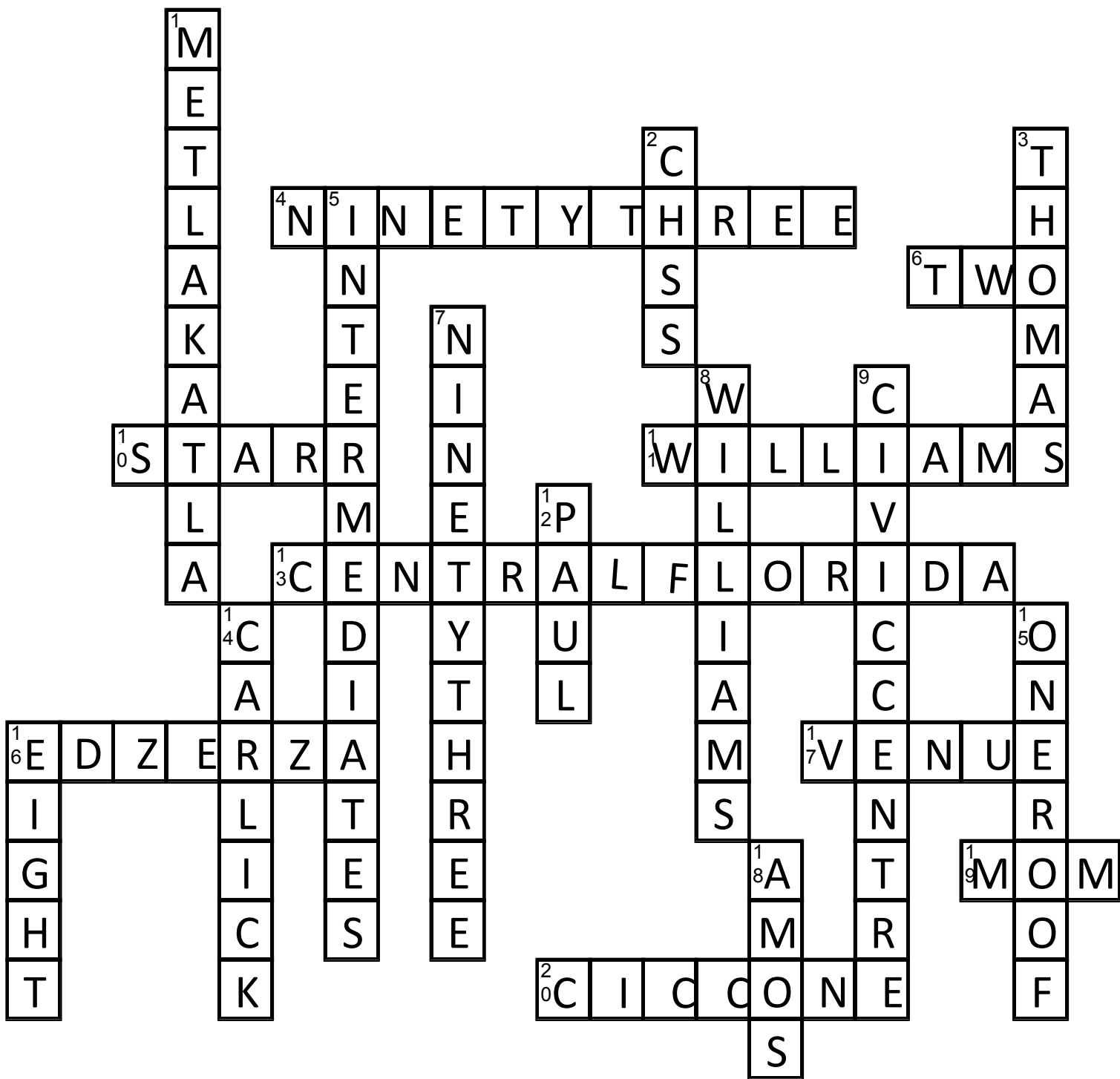


Across

- 4** Year Women's division was added
- 6** Celebrating this many decades
- 10** 2010 Hall of Fame Inductee
- 11** 2012 MVP
- 13** First portable court came from University of _____
- 16** First female to play
- 17** Expanding tournament costly due to needing second
- 19** I grew up watching my _____ play and looking up to her
- 20** ANBT treasurer

Down

- 1** First master's division winner
- 2** Second venue location (abbr.)
- 3** Author
- 5** The _____ see you can stay active and competitive as you get older
- 7** Year masters division was added
- 8** Oldest player to take the court
- 9** Original venue
- 12** 2011 MVP
- 14** First female MVP
- 15** To get everyone under _____ was huge success
- 16** Number of women's teams in first tournament
- 18** Competing in his 6th decade



2017 HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE



DENISE WILSON

BY KEVIN CAMPBELL

A pioneer of the All Native Basketball Tournament's women's division, Denise Wilson is no stranger to high-level, competitive basketball.

Playing in almost every All Native tournament (ANBT) since the division was incorporated into the modern format, minus a couple years when she played college ball, Wilson has matched up on the court against all challengers.

But the 2017 Hall of Fame inductee and her Metlakatla, BC team are finding it a little more difficult keeping up with the new generation of female ballers, who she says are younger than ever before, faster than ever before, and better trained and conditioned.

"Players are starting out a little bit younger. For example, Kitamaat has a team that is fairly young and they've been practicing and playing for a long time, and so they're getting faster and stronger," she said.

"For the most part we're older and slower and we have to rely on our experience," Wilson laughed.

That's OK, the Metlakatla Crest team and Wilson have earned their stripes.

A nine-time champion and a three-time division MVP, Wilson is the point guard and the play-runner when Met has the ball.

"I use my court sense. I think I have a good vision of the court, that's why I play the point guard position. I can kind of see how the play might



develop, or where someone should be," she said on why she thinks she was nominated to be in the Hall.

"Also, experience. I've played a lot of years now."

But part of the old guard, Wilson isn't.

Her Met team finished in third-place in 2016 and won the tournament in 2014. Up-and-coming teams like Kitamaat and two-time defending champions Bella Bella have recently provided high-level competition for the Crest team that has perhaps the longest history of playing together in the division.

"[Last year] our fatigue set in and Bella Bella beat us," she said.

Wilson credits her role models on the team for her success and she's tried to mirror the best aspects of them all.

"I've had great teammates. Judy [Carlick-Pearson], who's in the Hall of Fame, Roberta [Edzerza], who's also in the Hall of Fame, my cousin Emily Wilson – she's an amazing player and the one who got me started. So all through my playing career I've had great role models who have shaped us into the team we have," she said.

Continued on Page 11

"There will be times when we're on ball and we communicate a lot. When we don't communicate, that's when people start going on runs, so we try to talk as best we can."

- Denise Wilson



Continued from Page 10

Wilson has played ball at Camosun College and Malaspina College (now Vancouver Island University) while obtaining her teaching degree.

She racked up the assists in her early years and is now specializing in mid-range jumpers.

The Hall of Famer has also coached the Prince Rupert Middle School (PRMS) Grade 8 girls' Storm team. Being on the other side of the bench has helped her gain perspective into the overall game of basketball, and insight into drills, systems and plays.

"Coaching is definitely a lot different. It's a little harder with regards to trying to break down how to do certain drills and just seeing the game in a different light. I think it's helped me," Wilson said.

The team is almost telepathic now, in telling each other where to be and what to do on the court they've played together so much.

"We rely on experience and talent maybe, and

not so much communication ... There will be times when we're on ball and we communicate a lot. When we don't communicate, that's when people start going on runs, so we try to talk as best we can," she said.

Like most good team players, Wilson isn't so fussed about the individual accolades, but is hungry for more championships – one more would put her in the double digits – an extraordinary feat for any sport.

"We definitely would like to beat Bella Bella. We were close with them last year, we were up on them and ended up losing. So we just hope we have another good showing," Wilson said.

"I think it's always an honour to be recognized and put in the Hall of Fame. I think for the most part, championships and winning is most important, but it's definitely an honour, and it's pretty cool, I'd say."

2017 Hall of Fame Inductee

OUR SPORT

OUR CULTURE

BY BEVAN HAMILTON

Every February, approximately 3,000 people descend on the small coastal city of Prince Rupert to take part in the All Native Basketball Tournament, bringing with them an aspect of their culture to bless the city with.

It's hard to measure exactly how an event of this magnitude affects a community, especially with a subject as ambiguous as culture. When you factor in approximately 50 teams that take part in the tournament, representing many different nations, not to mention an auditorium full of business people selling traditional First Nations food, carvings, weavings and other art, the Jim Ciccone Civic Centre almost becomes one giant longhouse.

The mesh of different culture variations shares a piece of each nation's history, telling their stories in the process.

"This is who we are, this is who our ancestors were," said Walter Thomas, lead singer for the Ahousaht Soul Shakers, which will perform at the opening ceremonies.

Aside from basketball, the primary reason for the tournament, there are three other ways each tribe celebrates their culture and passes it on to the crowds who will cram the civic centre for seven days near the end of winter.



FOOD

If you think about the civic centre as a longhouse, then the events inside could be a potlatch, a tradition ceremonial feast among North American Indigenous people of the northwest coast.

Food is a major part of that, and integral to First Nations culture. Many vendors set up a table in the All Native auditorium, but it's about so much more than just making money.

"There's a lot of socializing going on, talking about what food meant to us and what it still means to us today," said Lisa Clifton, who heads up the Clifton family's annual food table.

The Clifton table has been a staple at All Native for the past 15 years and they help provide a link to their culture heritage.

"Food gives historical insight into our families, our nation in many ways, to how we lived, what we ate, where we harvested, gathered our food, who we traded with. All of this plays a really huge part in what food says culturally about our people," Clifton said.

Continued on Page 21

Continued from Page 20

She, along with her extended family, sells traditional First Nations food. Clifton is Heiltsuk, but both her and her sister's husbands are Tsimshian so the food is a mixture of cultures.

The group, who work together to harvest and make the food, sell such items as herring roe and kelp, Eulichan grease, smoked, dried or fried Eulichans, cockles, clams and clam fritters, to name a few.

It started one year a decade-and-a-half-ago, but along the way their customers became like family and Clifton is passionate about their work. It isn't just about selling food, it is sharing her heritage.

"People are proud, like this is our traditional food, this is what our ancestors ate and this is still what we eat today. It isn't something we've lost, like we lost our language. We haven't lost our cultural foods and we're still fighting for it today," she said.

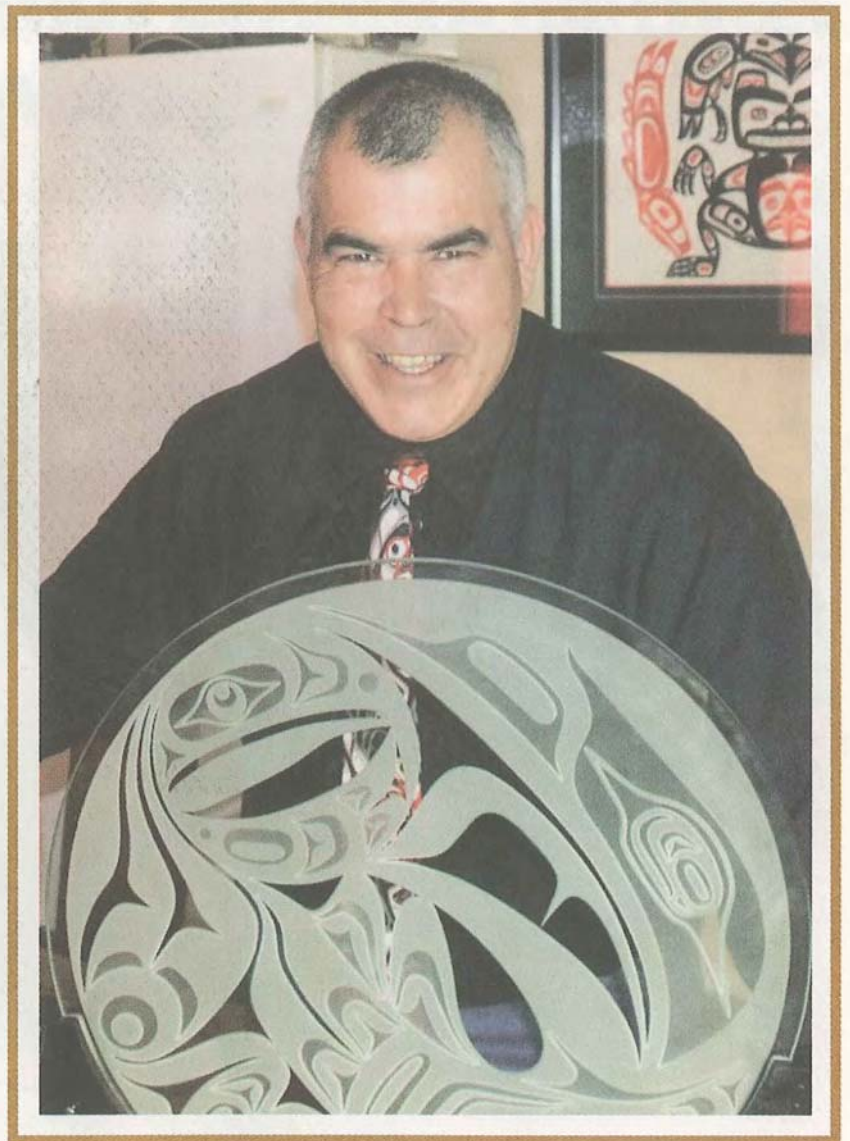
ART

Another big part of the tournament is the art that makes a temporary home at the civic centre. Art has been a way First Nations people have expressed themselves for thousands of years.

Artists set up tables from 9 a.m. until 9 p.m. every day in hopes of selling their work. Haida carver and artist James Sawyer has been among those for the past 15 years, but he just enjoys connecting with everybody.

"I think it gives everyone a chance to see different things, different styles of regalia, different styles of work and I think it only brings us closer but broadens our minds. I think it all just brings us closer, gives us more connection," Sawyer said.

Because he travels from Masset each year, Sawyer



doesn't bring over his carvings or other bigger, more expensive items. Instead, he usually sells jewellery and the occasional drum.

"I just think it's good for everyone to see all the different styles and different mediums that different nations bring to All Native. Everything is inspiring to each other," he said.

It's hard to describe how important art is to First Nations people, explained Joanne Finlay, who supports Aboriginal artists in the community by providing services such as administration and writing grants.

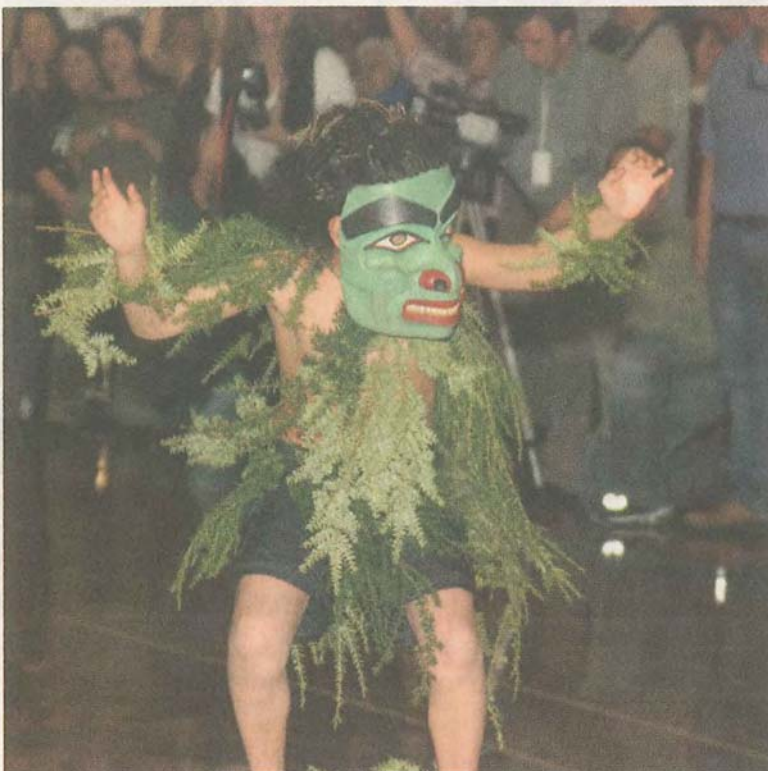
Continued on Page 23

Continued from Page 21

“Our art is way more valuable than money,” she said. “Most of our art comes from stories. It’s your lineage, it’s the oral stories in your family.”

Throughout the tumultuous history First Nations people have endured and survived, some things were lost but the art has always continued. Many artists at All Native express those histories and stories in their work, whether through weaving, painting, robes, carvings or others.

“The tournament brings people together to celebrate our strengths and our living culture, as well as our skills. There are many hours dedicated to the sport of basketball, as there are with the dedication to learning the traditional arts,” Finlay said.



DANCE

Every year after the All Native Basketball Tournament wraps up, dance groups from many different nations eagerly wait to see if they have been chosen to perform the opening ceremonies at the following year’s tournament. It’s a prestigious honour to open the tournament with a cultural celebration of dance and songs. The performance sets the tone for the week and fills players and fans with feelings they can’t always describe.

“You just hear drumming and singing and you get a feeling inside your body, like the chills. You just feel good that we have our culture,” Thomas said, who added that he hopes he and the Soul Shakers can pass on that same feeling this year.

The dance group of approximately 20-30 people, ranging from age 2 to over 60, has been working hard in preparation for the tournament, practicing twice a week for almost a year now. Thomas said they were overwhelmed when they first found out they were given this honour, but now everyone is on their toes in excitement.

Pansy Collison also knows the feeling of pride to receive the honour of sharing her nation’s culture through dance. A few years ago, she organized the Haida Nation dancers from Skidegate, Masset, Vancouver, Hydaburg and Prince Rupert to perform at the opening ceremonies. Dance is an expression of culture for them.

“Every dance group shows their history and their stories. Every song has a story to tell and signifies and identifies our land and territories and who we are,” Collison said. “The First Nations dancers have different ways of presenting their culture and it’s wonderful to watch their different performances. It all signifies the proudness of who they are and where they come from,”

Whether through basketball, through dance or art or food, the 58th All Native Basketball Tournament will be an opportunity to experience many different First Nations cultures, broaden horizons and celebrate with a few thousand people. Welcome to Prince Rupert.

2017: Our Sport, Our Culture



Come for hoops, stay for food...

It may be the most exciting off-court attraction of the All Native Basketball Tournament. A line-up snakes around the auditorium as it fills with the aromas of the sea. The alluring smells are emanating from Arnold Clifton's booth. Deep fried seaweed, curried cockles, herring eggs and, best of all, the clam fritters. The dishes are traditional, the ingredients are caught by he and his family and the recipes too are his family's own. There are many more items than listed above, but this is what draws in the crowds.

"The clam fritters, we're the only ones that make it a special way. It was my grandfather's recipe... and there's a lot of people who have been trying to ask for this recipe, but we would never share it. I won't give you any hints. It's just real good. You got to try it."

Last year, Clifton failed to attend the tournament with his dishes, but after endless earfuls from his fans he vowed not to miss it again this year.

"I know people get upset when we don't have a table," Clifton said, laughing.



- Continued on Page 96

"Wherever we went, we were hearing from people. Until just a few weeks ago we weren't going to go, but because of the people asking so much about it we decided to go."

Although Clifton won't offer any hints about his recipes, to get an understanding of how popular they are, consider the amount of fish that's required to nourish the ANBT fans: 20 50-lbs sacks of clams, 15 sacks of cockles and 20 35-lbs buckets of herring eggs—the shopping list goes on. With these three items alone, that's 2,450 lbs of seafood, enough to feed the average person every day for more than 1.5 years.

"It's unreal how much food we go through," Clifton said.

In addition to quality, Clifton also prides himself on the portion of his dishes, which may explain why he goes through so much seafood.

"It's unreal how much food we go through."

- Arnold Clifton

said.

"If you go elsewhere you'd have to pay 20 bucks for a little plate. If you go to a Japanese restaurant and ask for that roe, you're going to get a few tiny slices. We give you a bowl of herring eggs for five dollars.

"The way other people prepare this, you could get 15 servings out of what we give

you in one."

Clifton and his family catch all the ingredients themselves. From Bella Bella and Hartley Bay and areas in between, those seas are harvested specifically for Clifton's salivating followers at the All Native Basketball Tournament.

"It's just unreal the reactions we get. People come and thank us, saying it's the best food they ever had. That makes us pretty happy. A lot of people don't get to eat these traditional foods anymore."

-Quinn Bender

COVER STORY

Higher education builds Aboriginal community

The All Native Basketball Tournament has seen many great players but it has produced few, if any, that have been able to make a living in the game. That's why it is important to think beyond the sport and remember that, as great a game as it is and as much as it is a part of North Coast Aboriginal culture, it doesn't pay bills and it won't be what ultimately defines a person.

Mostly, it will be what one does beyond basketball that will define someone and, for more and more players, that involves establishing a career through post-secondary education.

"Getting an education, going to college or university, is very important – we stress that to all of our players," said George Sampson, who has been running the Prince Rupert Friendship House junior and intermediate programs for almost 20 years. "The kids learn a lot from the game, but basketball isn't forever."

Those words weren't heeded much during the early years of the tournament. But things were different in the 60s, 70s and 80s. Many players were able to make a good living without going to school because of the thriving fishing industry, by either working on a boat or in the cannery.

Some did go to school, though, seeking a different way to make a living.

One of them was Debbie Jeffrey, who played women's basketball for many years before playing and coaching in the All Native Tournament. In fact, she coached the first ever women's division champs, the Kaien Islanders.

Jeffrey holds both a B.A. and a Masters in Education and is currently taking law at the University of Victoria, with one year left to obtain her law degree. And the 46-year-old mother of two entered both fields not just for her own ambitions, but with a mind to give back to her community.

"My whole life I've been brought up with an idea to serve the community and I thought a law degree would be useful for that," said Jeffrey. "If we want to change the legal and political framework of Canada, we need to be involved more directly."

That said, Jeffrey said that "education is still my passion and I want to be involved. We need some long-term strategies to support our students."

Continued on page 11

**RACE
TRAC
GAS**



**GRASSY BAY
SERVICES**

Stay in your car and stay dry
FULL SERVICE, 7 DAYS A WEEK

A Locally Owned & Operated Business

Race Trac Gas welcomes
the athletes, spectators and
participants of the 48th Annual
All Native Basketball Tournament!

Have a fanatastic tournament!

THE ONLY FULL SERVICE GAS STATION IN PRINCE RUPERT

•MARINE FUEL •STATUS GAS & CIGARETTES •SANI DUMP •PROPANE

100 Grassy Bay Lane, Prince Rupert, B.C. Next to the Recycling Depot • (250) 624-9450

Continued from page 9

One of those students is Kristen Helin, who played for three-time Women's champion Rupert Rain, and is currently in her second year at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver. Helin is working on her Bachelors of Science and plans to become a pharmacist.

At first, she was planning on going to medical school but said she discovered, after her first year, that pharmacy made more sense for her.

"I had to take into account the lifestyle I wanted," said Helin. "I wanted to have more time to myself, to have a family, and getting into pharmacy would allow me to come back to Rupert. I'm definitely looking forward to getting back and working in the community."

Again, there's that word: community. A shift in thinking is beginning to take place. It's not just "I want my kids to make good money and be respected" or "I want to make good money and be respected;" it's that AND "I want an education that benefits the community" as well.

The connection between education and strengthening community is so compelling, it has government and corporations sitting up and taking notice.

Cliff Fregin played for the Prince Rupert Trojans team that won back to back ANT senior men's titles in the mid-80s. He has been the head of the Gwaii Trust Fund

and the Chief Operating Officer of the National Aboriginal Capital Corporations Association, which oversees agencies like Tricorp.

Fregin's new position is as the Chief Executive Officer of the New Relationship Trust for First Nations in B.C., which is developing a new program for First Nations students.

"We're looking at giving a forgivable loan, essentially scholarships, to First Nations students. We're looking at about 100 scholarships a year for three years," explained Fregin. "And what we're thinking is that, as a condition, at some point, they have to do some work for their community."

Fregin attended Grand Prairie College in Alberta, along with a number of his Trojans teammates. He studied PhysEd his first year and took political science the following two years.

He didn't finish his degree because, upon taking a year off from school, he found himself quickly advancing in the work he'd found. But, without that education, he wouldn't have gotten nearly as far as he has.

"My education opened doors for me. I can't stress it enough," he said. "I probably would have gotten my Masters but I was already getting the opportunities I wanted and couldn't pass them up."

Continued on page 13

WEST END RESTAURANT LTD.

... famous for delicious, reasonably priced
Chinese and Canadian Food



**Success to All Fans
& Players in the
48th Annual All Native
Basketball Tournament!**

Business Hours: Monday to Sunday - 8:00 am to Midnight
Sunday - 9:00 am to 11:30 pm

FREE Home Delivery! (Within City Limits)

624-4333



610 - 3rd Avenue West, Prince Rupert, B.C.

Continued from page 11

Aboriginal education has long been a sore point in the province but, in recent years, strides have been made to improving high school graduation rates and post-secondary success. Besides programs like Fregin is proposing, there are numerous other scholarships and bursaries that target Aboriginal people.

The All Native Tournament itself offers bursaries to each high school every year, dedicated to the memory of the late Jim Ciccone, a former committee member and respected community member.

Phil Gamble, the All Native Junior Provincials MVP in 2006 and member of the Friendship House Cubs intermediate team that placed second in the February event, was a Jim Ciccone bursary recipient last year. He is currently attending the University of Northern B.C. in Prince George and praised the program there.

"They have what is, basically, a resource centre for First Nations students here," said Gamble. "They teach you everything, from arts to how to use the library or manage your time."

"You get an immense amount of help at UNBC, with pretty much anything," he said, then added with a laugh: "It's hard not to succeed!"

Gamble is currently taking general studies but is considering a move to Malaspina College to study construc-

tion and environmental planning.

Of course, the road to post-secondary success is different for everyone.

Most parents try and push their kids directly into college to get degrees. And, while there's nothing wrong with that plan, there are other routes and it's always wise to do what works best for you.

Take Bess Leeson, for instance.

Leeson, who played in the ANT at a very young age – starting with Kitkatla at age 12! - went into college right out of high school, enrolling in Northwest Community College in 1999. But she wasn't quite sure yet

Continued on page 15



"ANT QUOTES"

DENISE WISON -Bachelor of Arts in Education
 from Malaspina, won championships with Kaien Island and Metlakatla; just got a teaching job at Charles Hays
*I think the tournament is a big help for the community. Coming back and giving back to the people that helped contribute to my success down in college has helped me out a lot.
 Being able to come back and play in front of my hometown gave me something to look forward to each year when I was down in school.*

Skeena

TAXI LTD
 24 Hr. Service



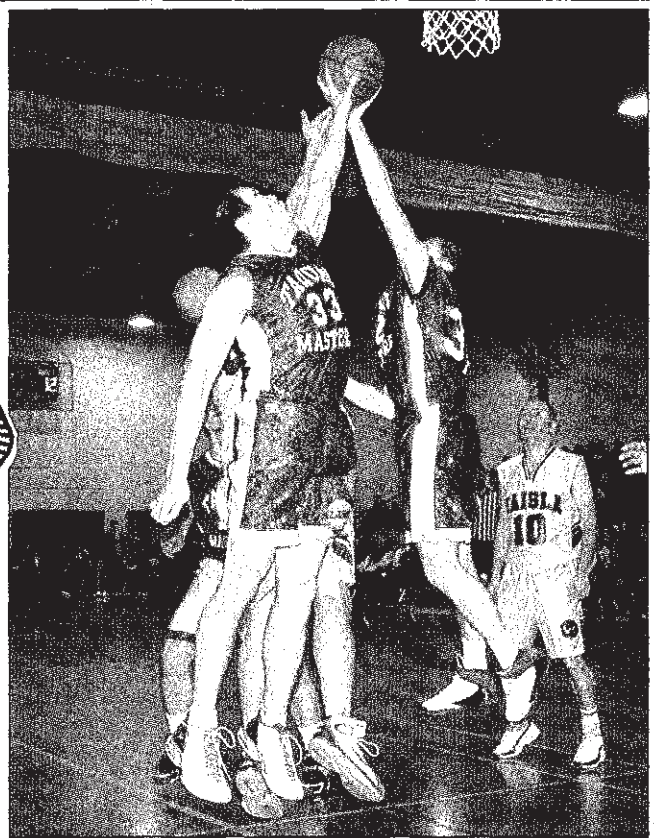
624-2185

**Friendly Drivers
 To
 Welcome You!**



*Best Of Luck
 To All Participants!*

SERVING PRINCE RUPERT FOR 41 YEARS



Continued from page 13

what she wanted to do, so she went back to her village and worked for the band for four years.

Fate then intervened in 2004, when Leeson decided to return to the community college and was fortunate to be chosen for a student exchange program with Finland, which is ranked the top country in the world for universities.

"It was a great experience," gushed Leeson of her stay in Finland, which was followed up by enrolling in Thompson Rivers University in Kamloops the next year.

"In my first year of college, I didn't know what to do. I was lost," she chuckled. "But the experience working for the band and seeing the business part of it, and then with the global management studies in the Finland program, really benefited me. I found my focus."

That focus is obtaining a Bachelors of Business, with a major in international business and a minor in marketing, which she should complete next year. It's a competitive field, based on exporting and importing, but Leeson is up to the challenge and ready for anything.

"Whatever opportunities arise, I'll follow them and go where it takes me."

And, with the container port development in Rupert, who knows? Maybe Leeson could be plying her trade back home.

"That has to come to mind," she said. "The port could be a huge opportunity. Ideally, Rupert would be a great place to start my career."

Careers and Community: they are not exclusive. Actually, for more and more First Nations students, they are woven together, and that union may be the key to the continued growth of the First Nations community.

Of course, basketball will still have its place.

"When I got your call, it got me to thinking about playing basketball for Friendship House," said Trevor Mazurek, who played for the Friendship House Cubs junior team, and recently took seven years at UBC to obtain his undergraduate in kinesiology and his Masters in Occupational Therapy.

"Playing basketball was a great experience but I realized that George Sampson was doing more than making good basketball players," said Mazurek. "He was always promoting education and community, about how important our elders are; he was developing young boys into men."

Mazurek, who graduated last summer, is currently working at both Vancouver General and UBC hospital. Shortly, he will take a full-time position in a private clinic but says he too dreams of coming to work back home.

"The great thing about basketball is that it develops discipline, in terms of both individual and team skills," concluded Jeffrey. "And one can apply those skills to other areas of life."

No. 1 Fast Food Centre & CATERING

We wish the best of luck to all participants in the 48th Annual All Native Tournament

No. 1 Fast Food Centre...

- Chicken Fingers • Beef Dip
- Chinese Combos • Dry Spareribs
- Boneless Sweet & Sour Pork
- Homemade Hamburgers
- Poutine Fries • Lunch Specials
- And Much More!!!

"All Day Breakfast"

Located Downstairs in the Rupert Square Mall
 Open 8:30 am to 6 pm
 Mon. thru Sat.
 Friday 8:30 am to 8 pm
 Sunday 10:00 am to 5 pm

Try Our
 Buffalo
 Burgers

Have you
 tried our
 Calamari?

Open
 8:30 AM

No. 1 Catering...

- Weddings
- Conventions
- Sports Banquets
- Parties

Ask for our
 special menu to
 suit your occasion

Phone 627-8436
 Fax 627-7433

RUSSELL GAMBLE

Tournament loses its elder statesman

There will be something different about the 2007 All Native Basketball Tournament.

This year there will be a void, as the man who has been involved in the event since Day One will no longer be at courtside or at his familiar post in the office across from the Civic Centre canteen.

Russell Gamble, one of the original tournament committee members, passed away November 11, 2006, at the age of 81, leaving behind a legacy of dedication that is unsurpassed.

Gamble played and managed in the early incarnation of the tournament, in 1947-53, when it was known as the Northern British Columbia Indian Championship. When the event was revived in 1960 as the All Native Basketball Tournament, he was the committee member in charge of security.

And he stood like a guardian of the tournament ever since.

"The work that he did over the years in running this tournament set an excellent foundation for us to build on," said past Chair and longtime committee member, Farley Stewart. "In order to experience success in the future, you need to know where you came from, your history, and Russell provided us with that. He'll be greatly missed."

Added Debbie Jeffrey, also a longtime committee member: "Words can't describe Russell's contribution to the game. He was amazing in his focus on the tournament, it was so important to him. But he was also a chief. He was supportive of education and was very community-oriented."

Gamble was first drawn to basketball as a player, although he started late compared to most, at the age of 23. He said this was because his community, Kitkatla, didn't have a basketball court. The game, he said, was "imported from the mainland."

"Some guys came and taught us the game. We didn't know the rules very well," recalled Gamble. "It was pretty rough and it took awhile, but we renovated the old village

hall and made a court."

From such humble beginnings, Gamble learned the game and he learned it well. It became a part of his very fabric and, when the tournament wasn't going on, he could often be found at the ANT office.

In the past several years, Gamble finally got his just reward, receiving the Basketball B.C. Wink Willox award for his volunteer efforts in basketball and, then, being inducted into the ANT Hall of Fame. In 2003, he received his ultimate honor, being one of the first inductees into the new Basketball B.C. Hall of Fame.

And such was his remarkable loyalty to the ANT that he refused to receive his B.C. Hall of Fame induction at the official ceremonies in Richmond in the spring of 2003. Instead, he asked that officials come to the 2004 ANT and award it to him there.

"It just makes sense," said Gamble, in an interview just prior to the '04 ANT. "I wouldn't be getting it if it wasn't for the tournament."

Gamble was amongst good company as one of the first inductees in the newly-created Basketball B.C. Hall of Fame, joined by such notables as SFU legend and former Canadian National Team captain, Jay Triano, Bev Smith, believed to be our nation's best female player ever, and B.C. High School Boys Basketball Association co-founder, Ken Wright.

"He's going in with some pretty good company, this first class of the Hall," said Basketball B.C. executive Director, Michael Hind, at the induction. "It speaks volumes for what he has done for basketball."

Of course, Gamble was much more than just an icon of the All Native Tournament. He was a respected and hard-working member of the Gitxaala Nation and hereditary chief of Kitkatla, which adopted him although he was born in Bella Bella



Russell Gamble

Continued on page 69

Continued from page 68

Sm-ooygit H'el worked in the fishing industry all of his life and was very involved in the community, recalled his daughter, Merle Bolton, at his memorial, which attracted a huge crowd to the Civic Centre including representatives from all area Nations to pay their respects.

"Dad was taught that all people in all communities should help each other," said Bolton. "He felt it was important to form relationships with everybody he met."

Bolton said Gamble played a large role in getting two of the main buildings completed in Kitkatla's early days of development. Recently, the village finished the renovations of the old community hall he helped build and, she said, it brought a smile to his face.

That smile must have been similar to the one he wore whenever the ANT is mentioned and the small beginnings it came from.

"I remember in those first years, a guy used to drive around town with speakers on his car, promoting the tournament," Gamble said previously, recalling the old Civic Centre on Second Avenue West, where the first tournaments were played. "It was always packed. People would stand outside, in the hall, and listen on the radio. The guys announcing the game were up in the balcony, so they had to lean over to see what was happening below them!"

The tournament has, of course, seen a lot of changes, and Gamble would often reflect on them.

"The caliber of ball is a lot different from way back then," he once explained. "Kids are getting better coaching now; they're going to college and bringing that knowledge back to the community. In the village, we never really had anyone like that to teach us how to play ball. We just taught ourselves."

Through it all, though, Gamble said there was one thing

that was consistent: the tremendous support; from businesses, the community and, most importantly, the fans.

"It has always been well supported, not only locally; the fans in the outlying communities are equally as important. It's not just about basketball; it's a big reunion. It's a chance to meet old friends and make new ones."

On behalf of all of those friends you made, Russell, the All Native Tournament says thank you. We know you haven't gone very far.



Gamble at the Tournament



"ANT QUOTES"

JOHN OLSEN

-remembering Russell Gamble

I refereed when Russell was still playing with Kitkatla which would have been 1961...He just wanted to play, no matter what was going on around he just wanted to play the game.

-He had a two-handed set shot. There weren't many of those around in those days. He used to set up and look at the basket and then put two hands evenly on either side of the ball and shoot it that way. Russell was one of the last players that had a great two handed shot. I think quite a few people who are still around would remember him for that.

Good Luck
to All Participants

Silvertip
PROMOTIONS & SIGNS INC.

Tel: 635-1713 or
1-866-730-1713

www.silvertipinc.ca
We welcome all former
Shirts by the Shore Customers



1998 Women's Division Most Valuable Player JUDY CARLICK

JUDY CARLICK was named 1998 Most Valuable Player in the Women's Division, playing for the Metlakatla, B.C. - M.A.C.s. This is her second Tournament MVP since 1993.

An accomplished athlete, Carlick has been playing minor ball since age eight. She credits much of her success to her sister, Roberta, who set the high standards which she aspired to reach and surpass.

As a youngster, Judy was allowed to practice with Roberta and the Lax Kw'alaams team, anxious for the day she'd be good enough for game play.

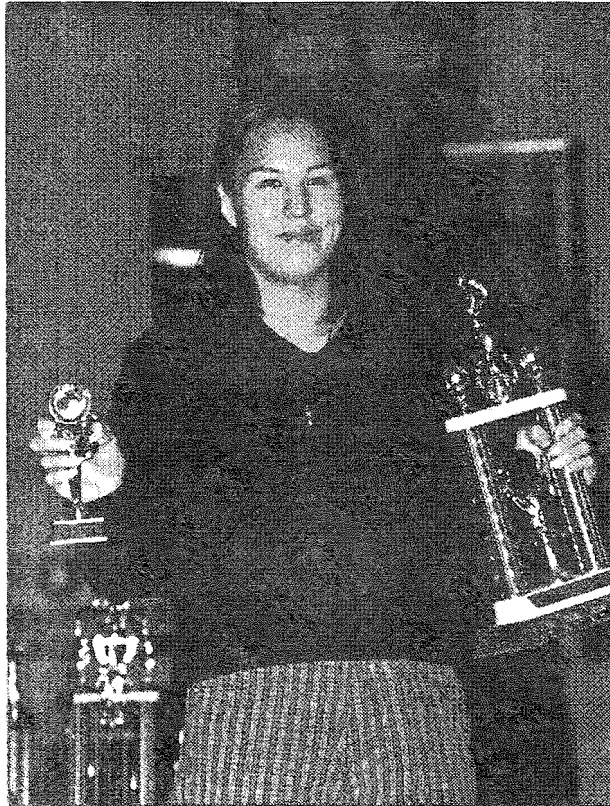
By grade four she made the grade 5/6 team, and in grade eight joined the high school team. She attended basketball camps

throughout the province and in grade nine, finally got court time with Lax Kw'alaams.

Judy Carlick has played on the Kaien Island Junior All Native Team and on the B.C. All Stars. She was ranked as an All Star in high school and in the ANT.

At 16, Carlick made the BC Selects and practiced for two months. Just before the Tournament, she was involved in an on-court collision with a teammate and ended up with a broken nose and a concussion, restricting her play to half the game, a huge disappointment after such intense practice.

Carlick attended Capilano College in 1995, where she entered the First Nations studies and played col-



lege ball. She took 1997 off, returning in 1998, where she was ranked number one in rebounding and scoring in the BCAA league.

Presently, Carlick is working at the Vancouver Native Education Centre as an Eco-Ed worker in the botanical centre. "I really like it," she says. "I'm catching up with my culture because it slipped by me during the years when I was playing basketball so intensely. This is a really good opportunity."

Carlick plans to return to school next year. She is a member of the Nanaimo Islanders basketball team and travels to the Nationals in Hawaii and the All Native Nationals in the U.S. She also coaches at the rec centre on the Squamish Reserve in North Vancouver whenever she can.

Carlick credits her achievements to the positive influences and coaching of Wayne Haldane, Skip Cronck, and Steve Adams; and the encouragement and commitment of her mother Sandra and sister Roberta. She extends thanks to her entire family, the Leighton family, Debbie Jeffrey, Peter Haugan, and the many others who have urged her on.

Carlick has been a life-long fan of Michael Jordan and has for years worn jersey number 23. She says, "I've been sick since the day he announced his retirement." Nonetheless, she predicts, "This will be the ultimate year for me."

She will again be playing for the Metlakatla M.A.C.s in this year's Tournament. ❖