

By JAKE DURHAM

It was the night of the full moon plus two and the room was filling up fast as the faithful gathered for the December Pitch Tournament. The Girls from Lyle were playing a practice round as they announced they were in it for all the marbles. Bug Man and the Sod Buster asked for line eleven, the Knock game was in full swing, the Muddy River Boys were just playing it cool and the Grand Mothers were sharing left-overs from Turkey Day. The clock struck seven and the Brown Eyed Girl shouted, "begin to commence" and the games began at once. It was a land mark occasion as it was the final tournament of '06 and everyone wanted to be a winner before next year.

It was going to be a tough night as the pushers just wouldn't let up and you couldn't tell just who the pushers were. Barbie Doll and the Nurse took the honors on round one and to no one's surprise, declared it was Ladies Night once again. The Mama and the Papa took the honors on round two and also took the lead. The Car King and his Lady took the honors on round three and it was hard to tell just who was in the lead as there was a three way tie at the top of the board. As round four got underway, a break was declared for the end of the round and as the score sheets were turned in, everyone

took time to assess the situation. The Muddy River Boys had taken the honors and the lead on round four and a further look at the board had the top five teams spaced out just one point a part down the line. Round five started on a more serious note as there were those who definitely needed to make up for lost time. The Bug Man and the Sod Buster broke into the lead as they took the honors on round five but as the score sheets were tallied after round six, the lead changed once again. Hat Man and the Chef had taken the honors but it was the Muddy River Boys, playing it sound round by round that were in the lead.

The Golden Girls, seemingly down on their luck, finally got in the groove and took the honors on round seven and the score board showed a four-way tie at the top between the Solomon River Boys, Bug Man and the Sod Buster, the Auto King and the Lady and the Muddy River Boys. It definitely wasn't lonely at the top. As the score sheets were being handed in on round eight, a break seemed like the right thing to do and as the scores were posted, the Red Neck and the Black Hat kid had taken the honors but the lead was in the hands of the Bug Man and The Sod Buster once again.

The crucial ninth round was coming up and it was sweat time

once again. To falter now could mean disaster but for those needing points, risks would have to be taken. The Hat Man and the Chef took the honors on round nine to make it a double but Bug Man and the Sod Buster were precariously in the lead by a margin of two points with the Hat Man and the Chef solidly in second. The Muddy River Boys were in third followed by Team Double Z in fourth place and rounding out the top five was the Auctioneer and Hammer Man.

Once again the champion would be determined by the tenth and final round and as the cards were being shuffled, a quietness seemed to prevail over the room as the bidding seemed cautious and deliberate. As the score sheets were handed in, the lead seemed to change with each posting. The Solomon River Boys took the honors on round ten and as the last score was posted, the Bug Man and The Sod Buster were still at the top of the board. It had been a challenging evening but the champs had been up to it. They had been there and done that before but they received their accolades with dignity and honor and swore to return to defend their title.

Top ten teams: 1. Jerry Darling and Lynn Thiele; 2. Todd and Doyle Brooks; 3. Arnold and Dorothy Zillinger; 3. J.D. Daffer and

Duane McEwen; 5. David Sheley and Bill Glennemeier; 5. John Hildebrand and Coy Christy; 7. Ron and Sondra Kester; 8. June Jolly and Wava Reames; 9. Jason and Stacy Breiner; 10. Barbara McKee and Donna Millan. Winning score by Darling and Thiele was 126 points for an average of 12.6 points per round.

High round scorers were Dave Sheley and Bill Glennemeier, Bar-

bara McKee and Donna Millan, Ron and Sondra Kester, Todd and Doyle Brooks, Jerry Darling and Lynn Thiele, Eleanor Jensen and Joyce Sumner, Larry Harman and Tony Hildebrand, John Hildebrand and Coy Christy. Highest single round score was 23 points by Sheley and Glennemeier. Double high round scorers were by Sheley and Glennemeier and McKee and

Millan. Teams not previously mentioned were: Ed Glennemeier and Jim Voss, Norman Walter and Marshall Henderson, Dee and Thelma Bushnell, Myron Veh and Mary Jane Wahlmeier, Fig Millan and Dan Hazlett, Janette Grotthoff and Cyrena Kester, Dan and Jennifer Porter, John and Jennifer Atkins, Austin Brooks and Jake Durham.

High School Sports This Week



WRESTLING: Norton will compete in Class 3-2-1A Regional Tournament, 2 p.m., Friday; 11 a.m., Saturday in the Norton Community High School Stull Gymnasium in Norton. BASKETBALL: Norton Varsity, Junior Varsity vs. Hoxie (There) 6:30 p.m., Today Norton Varsity, Junior Varsity vs. Ellis (Here) 5 p.m., JV Boys, Wilmeth Kirk Memorial Gym; 5:30 p.m., JV Girls, Varsity Girls, Varsity Boys, NCHS Stull Gym, Thursday Senior Night, Norton Varsity, Junior Varsity vs. Plainville (Here) 5 p.m., JV Boys, Wilmeth Kirk Memorial Gym; 5:30 p.m., JV Girls, Varsity, Girls, Boys Varsity, NCHS Stull Gymnasium, Monday Norton Varsity, Junior Varsity vs. Colby (There) 6:30 p.m., Tuesday Northern Valley vs. Victoria (in Almena) 4 p.m., Today Northern Valley vs. Western Plains (in Ransom) 4:30 p.m., Friday Northern Valley in Regionals February 19-24 TBA Logan vs. Palco (in Logan) 4 p.m., Today Logan vs. Eastern Heights (in Logan) 4 p.m., Friday Logan in Regionals Feb. 19-24 TBA

Happy Valentine's Day

James, I am so grateful that you are a part of my life. You've helped me get through so much and you've always been able to keep my spirits high even when it seemed there was no hope in sight. You've helped me get through the hard times and you've been there to laugh with me and enjoy the good times. Fate brought us together. Let's see where destiny shall lead us. I Love You, Lisa

Mitchell - You are my special little 8 year old... ..will you be my Valentine? Love, Mom

Happy Valentine's Day Daddy, Granny, and Grandad! Love, Libbi and Corbin

TO MY SWEET HUSBAND That April Fool's Day years ago We both stepped out in faith Game to try love one more time We tried not to act in haste. However . . . In two short weeks we knew the truth Our paths were meant to cross We agreed to say, "I do", I said — you could be "Boss". This marriage has been quite a trip Often a roller coaster ride But, I'll never regret the day we wed And, I became your bride. Love You. "C" 143!

To Hot Mama and her Super Cool Wyatt, You Rock! Happy Valentine's Day! Kisses & Hugs, Vee

Adam and Parker, You are the best Valentines a Grandma could have! I Love You! Love, Grandma

— Jayden, Jace, and Jill — Happy Valentine's Day to the best Valentines in the world. We love and adore you all. Hugs and Kisses Grandma Linda and Grandpa Pat

Kelly — Ya wanna hear my funny for today? Happy Valentine's Day Kisses and Love — Veronica

Happy Valentine's Day Daddy, I Love You! Amanda and Hailey

Lisa, You are the best Valentine's any person could ever hope for. I can only hope you and I spend many more together Love, JAMES

Ashlyn, You make us smile every day Princess! PaPa Norman and Mammy Paula

Bruce . . . Thank you for being a part of my life. I Love You!