

**54th Annual
Sleepy Thompson Invitational Tournament
St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School
2010**

Well, it's the end of February once again, which always seems to mean two things in the Washington Area: the coming of spring and the second oldest and most prestigious high school basketball tournament in the area, the Sleepy Thompson Invitational Basketball Tournament at St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School. This marks 53 continuous years of excellence in high school tournament competition.

The original aim in sponsoring this tournament was to bring together, at the close of the season, independent and private schools with similar academic and athletic objectives. We did so to enable the players, faculty, student body, parents and alumni to enjoy competitive basketball in a friendly environment where an atmosphere of sportsmanship and comradeship would prevail. This continues to be our goal each year, and we welcome all of the teams with the hope and anticipation that they share our reasons for sponsoring this tournament.

Back in 1957, when we moved to our present location, the athletic director and coach, Al "Sleepy" Thompson, decided to begin a new tradition to go along with a new location and a new gymnasium, and he created the inaugural "St. Stephen's Invitational Basketball Tournament." That first year Christchurch School from Saluda, Virginia, Charlotte Hall from Southern Maryland and Norfolk Academy from Norfolk, Virginia, all joined the Saints for the first tournament.

ST. STEPHEN'S prevailed in this inaugural event with a hard fight and exciting 53-46 victory over Norfolk Academy. In 1958, the field was expanded to its present format of eight teams, with a guarantee of three full day of hard-fought, exciting basketball.

Over the years, many players who participated in the tournament have gone on to play in the college ranks, including Duke, North Carolina, Virginia, Notre Dame, Stanford, Randolph Macon, Maryland, James Madison, American, Harvard, Princeton, Brown, Washington & Lee, Cornell, Wake Forest, Vermont, Massachusetts, William & Mary, Old Dominion, George Mason, Virginia Tech, Boston College, Colorado, Virginia Commonwealth, Gettysburg, Georgetown, Providence, St. Bonaventure, U.C.L.A., California, and Connecticut, just to name a few.

We are extremely proud of the traditions we have established over the years. We realize that we are a small private high school, but we take pride in the fact that over the past 53 years we have provided a great tournament atmosphere for the coaches, players, parents, faculties and alumni. We are constantly working to improve what we do and continue to strive to be the best we can be.

Last year's 53rd annual classic continued our tradition of excellence in high school competition. Thursday's opening contest pitted the Maroon of Episcopal (15-7) against the Panthers of Potomac School (17-9) of the Mid-Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAC). The Maroon forged a 17-5 lead by the end of the first stanza and increased the margin to 35-14 by halftime. The Maroon cruised to a 65-41 victory, behind the play of seniors Given Kalipinde and Jordan Martinez, with 17 and 13 points each, to advance to Friday's first semi-final.

The 5 o'clock match up paired the Seahorses of Christchurch School, Saluda, Va. (19-7) members of the Virginia Prep League and the Huskies of Flint Hill (22-3), members of the MAC. Flint Hill forged a three point first quarter lead which they maintained at half

30-27. Christchurch battled back behind nine third period points from their leading scorer senior forward Mike Gbinije to take a 46-43 lead entering the final stanza. The Huskies fought back exploding for 27 fourth period points, behind a balanced attack of to win going away 70-61 and also advance to Friday's first semi-final.

The evening bracket began with the host Saints (9-16) facing the Heights Cavaliers (5-21). The Saints worked hard to forge a 35-29 margin at the break. The third stanza saw the Saints explode with 23 points with ten players scoring as they cruised to a 76-46 victory to advance to the semi-finals.

The last quarterfinal game pitted the Patriots of John Carroll ranked #3 in Baltimore (23-9) with the Tigers of Woodberry Forest (7-12). The first half was back and forth as the Patriots built a 36-28 margin at the break. In the third, 6'8" senior All-American, Isaiah Philmore exploded for 17 of his game high 29 points to pace Carroll to a 79-63 victory to complete Friday's semi-final brackets.

Friday's first consolation semi-final between Christchurch and Potomac saw the Seahorses of Christchurch race out a 29-15 lead at the end of one. The Panthers battled back to cut the margin to 35-28 at the half. The second half was a high scoring affair as both teams filled up the net, but Christchurch was able to maintain their lead for a 77-64 victory and advance to Saturday's Consolation Championship.

In the second consolation semi-final, Woodberry broke up a tight game, 32-30 the Heights at halftime, with an explosive third period 29-5, led the 19 points of senior guard Landrus Lewis in the quarter, as the Tigers won going away 72-56, to fill out the consolation championship bracket.

The opening championship semi-final featured Flint Hill and Episcopal High School. The game was nip and tuck from the outset as Episcopal kept the Huskies in check to only trail 35-34 at the end

of two. The Huskies pushed the margin to 57-54 at the end of three. In the final stanza Episcopal battled back, behind Given Kalipinde tallied thirteen of his game high 34 points to lead the Maroon back to an 80-77 victory to claim the first spot in Saturday's Championship.

The other championship semi-final game paired the host Saints and John Carroll. The contest was close throughout the first three periods as junior Jack Hamilton scored all 20 of his points to keep the game tight 35-44. The game was ultimately decided in the final stanza as the Patriots used a suffocating defense to hold the host Saints to only five fourth quarter points to win 62-40 and claim the final berth in Saturday's championship.

The 11 o'clock eye-opener pitted the Heights against Potomac School. The first half was nip and tuck as Potomac forged a 24-18 lead at the break. The Panthers started the second half on fire as they raced to a 49-29 lead and coasted through the fourth for a 63-43 victory.

The Consolation Championship paired Prep League members Woodberry Forest and Christchurch. The Tigers of Woodberry used a 22 point second period to forge a 40-34 lead at the break. The third stanza proved to be decisive as the Seahorses ran off thirteen unanswered points and captured the lead 54-50 at the end of three. The fourth quarter was a run and gun affair as both teams went to the charity stripe thirty times, with Christchurch converting 12 of 17 to maintain their margin and win 79-73.

The 3rd place match up pitted the Saints and Flint Hill. The Huskies set the tone in the first stanza, surging to a 19-9 lead that they never lost. The margin remained the same into the final period, where Huskie senior Doug Howard converted 10 of 13 free throws, despite Saints senior Ian McLeod scoring 15 of his game high 22 points, as the Flint Hill held off the Saints and captured 3rd Place, 64-60.

The 2009 Championship game between the Patriots of John Carroll and the Maroon of Episcopal saw the Maroon come out with guns blazing. Behind the scoring duo of senior and tournament MVP Given Kalipinide and junior David Kagulu-Kalema, the Maroon pushed a nine point first stanza lead to 33-20 at the half. The high scoring third saw Episcopal add to their margin and end the period ahead, 53-38. The final quarter saw the high powered offense of John Carroll kick into gear behind the 14 points from All-American Isaiah Philmore (20 total). But the tenacity of Episcopal showed it's head as the Maroon converted 15 of 26 free throws in the fourth to hold on for an exciting 72-68 victory and the 2009 Championship.

We wish to express our sincerest thanks and appreciation to the Fathers' Club, the Association of Parents and Teachers (APT), and all the volunteers who so generously donate their time and services, which make this tournament the tremendous success that it is each year. We welcome all the teams and hope they enjoy their visit.

Jarrett Howell, class of 1970