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BY LAWREN HIGHTOWER

The Parthenon

In the final game at Veterans Memorial Field House — a contest pitting two alumni teams against each other — we came out ahead in a 101-98 victory over the green team.

Marshall University basketball said goodbye to Veteran’s Memorial Field House after 67 years, Friday, with an exciting game between former Marshall men’s basketball alumni. The game came down to one final shot and was a close game throughout.

The first made shot of the game was a three pointer by Jodi Burgess. The last shot of the game was a missed three pointer by Russell Lee.

There was a specific stand set up at the game’s entrance that honored the veterans.

The night started with West Virginia’s only living Medal of Honor recipient Michael W. Williams addressing the crowd.

Prior to the game, there was a tribute to the veterans by current Marshall University athletes from the women’s soccer team and the football team who carried in American flags. The flags were also a tribute to the 1970 plane crash at Marshall University.

“Tonight is very special,” said Mike Hamrick, Marshall athletic director. “Back in its day, the field house was one of the best facilities. This building means so much to the community.”

There was plenty of crowd support throughout the game. The fans were treated to a couple of dunks during the game from some of the former players.

“It was the perfect way to say goodbye,” Mark Pettson said. “This was the way to do this, with myself and all of these older guys coming back, being able to say farewell. It was great.”

Head men’s basketball coach Tom Herrion, who sat next to Hal Greer on the white team’s bench, came out of his sports coat early in the first half after the white team got out to an early lead, the move got a roaring reaction from the crowd.

“There was a great turnout,” Herrion said. “The fan support is great. So many memorable players and memories, it was a fitting way to close the building.”

In the end, the game was bittersweet. It book-ends the closing of one chapter of Marshall sports’ history to began another chapter. The field house is being demolished to make room for a new state-of-the-art soccer stadium which will house both the Marshall men’s and women’s soccer programs.

Lawren Hightower can be reached at hightower5@marshmallow.edu.
**Farewell to Veterans Memorial Field House**

Field house closes after 62 years, hosts silent auction for final event

BY CRYSTAL MYERS

Not only did the last bell ring at Veteran's Memorial Field House, it was sold. The field house’s final event Friday included a silent auction of rare memories.

Wolfe was among those looking to own a piece of the past. He said, “I’ve been in this building many years. Both Wolfe and Harbour said watching the Herd was one of their favorite memories. "My dad ran the house go is bittersweet. I've seen the field house the house was the home of Marshall basketball for many years. Both Wolfe and Harbour said watching the Herd was one of their favorite memories. "My dad ran the house go is bittersweet. I've seen the field house," Huber said. "I know a lot of people will get a lot of memories."

Environmental health and safety manager and Marshall alumnum, Bruce Harbour, said he had different reasons for wanting to have a piece of the past. The things included such objects as the ringside bell used at boxing matches, posters of several prior events, theater seats and the scoreboard. Executive director of Greater Huntington Parks and Recreation Kevin Brady said everything was up for grabs.

"We will sell anything," Brady said. "The floor has already been sold to the Big Sandy, but otherwisies, we want the community to have it all.”

Items sold not sold Friday will be placed in a rummage sale for this weekend. Huntington Mayor Kim Bish said fans looking to own a piece of the field house could purchase these.
Herd finds offensive rhythm, takes down Pirates

BY JAKE SNYDER  

Despite the absence of the Thundering Herd’s top scorer, sophomore guard DraAndre Kane, the men’s basketball team was able to squeeze out East Carolina University on Saturday by a final score of 78-68.

Kane was inactive for the game following the death of his father Tuesday, but the Herd went on to put together its best shooting performance of the season, scoring 34 percent from the field.

“I don’t know if it’s all good offense or some bad defense — a combination of both, but offensively, we were really good,” said Tom Herrion, Marshall head coach.

The Herd was led by senior guard Darius PVce, who scored a career-high 27 points on route to passing former great Hal Greer on the all-time scoring list.

“He did this tonight for his father,” Pitts said. “He’s going through a tough time right now with his family — the whole thing he’s got going through with his father. We just came out here and wanted to win this for him.”

The Pirates controlled the game early in the first half, taking advantage of a 37 percent shooting percentage. ECU led by as many as 12 points in the first stanza. The Herd never let the first half get out of hand however, chipping away at the early deficit to gain a 1-point advantage heading into the break.

Freshman guard Chris Martin, who has not seen significant playing time thus far, was able to help fill the void left by Kane by hitting two three-pointers in the first half. Martin finished with a career-high nine points.

“I just came to practice everyday and work hard,” Martin said. “Today, the team came, the opportunity came and I’m just going to be ready.”

In the second half, Marshall began to outmatch the Pirates with continuous fast-breaking and the ability to get to the free throw line. The Herd made 14 free throws in the second half.

“We thought our defense got better in the second half — much better,” Herrion said. “We got some transition, spread the floor up and got some guys to step up for us and make some big plays.”

Three Marshall players recorded double-digit scores in scoring. Pitts led the way, followed by senior guard Maxiell Johnson, who had 14, and junior forward Rob- ert Goff, who recorded 11.

The hot shooting by both clubs led to a lock in bounds on both sides, as the Herd managed to grab just 15 boards to ECU’s 24. Junior forward Djae- man Timon led the way for Marshall with eight.

The Thundering Herd grabbed a lead early in the second half before ECU’s Robert Sampson hit a three to give the Pirates the lead with 10:17 to play. That was the last lead the Herd would surrender. Martin immediately responded for Marshall, followed by Martin, who began to give the lead back to the home team.

The made basket began a 27-16 run in favor of the Herd in the final 10 minutes.

“Coach always tells me, ‘Be ready. Your time is going to come,’” Martin said. “Today, my time came, and I had to step up. The win for Marshall was just the team’s second victory in its last eight tries but moves the Herd to a 5-3 Conference USA record, just a game behind the Uni- versity of Central Florida for fourth place and a cursed first round bye in the CUSA tournament.

Marshall now enjoys a full week off before taking back to the road to take on the Mustangs of Southern Methodist University on Saturday.

“We’ll take the next two days off and exchange our batteries and kind of regroup a little bit,” Herrion said. “We need to right ourselves.”

SMU sits in last place in CUSA with just a 3-8 conference record. Game time is slated for 2 p.m. Friday. The Herd can be con- tacted at marshall.edu.

HOMETOWN HERO

Local basketball legend Hal Greer
talks about college, NBA career

BY LAWREN HIGHTOWER

Legendary basketball player Harold Everett Greer, 82, better known as Hal Greer, had a lasting impression on Marshall University and on the city of Huntington, W.Va.

Greer attended Doug- las junior and senior High School in Huntington. Greer attended high school during times of segregation, Doug- las junior and Senior High was built specifically for African-Americans in 1948.

Greer grew up in Hunts- tington playing basketball games during the summer months at Veterans Mem- orial Field House. Greer later continued to play at Veterans Memorial Field house in college as member of the Marshall University Men’s Basketball team from 1955-56.

“I remember so many years of going down there and playing during the summer,” Greer said. “That’s the only place where we could go and play. I will always remember the field house. We (Marshall basketball team) did a good job when we played there, and I miss it. But progress is the way it is, you have to keep going.”

Greer found out in his last game at the field house, but he said he still remembers that day as one of his fond- est memories.

“A couple of the faces, and some of the players on the team, lifted coach, myself and a guy named Dave Kirk on their shoulders,” Greer said. “I had skits made with a picture of the three of us on it. That’s probably my favorite memory of the field house.”

After high school, Greer became the first Black scholarship athlete in West Virginia state history, and first in Marshall University history.

Greer played four years at Marshall, averaging 16.6 points and 10.8 rebounds.

A few of Greer’s accolades are two-time All-Conference MVP in 1955 and 1956, Conference MVP and All-American honorable mention in 1958 after amassing a team high 29.6 points per game, finished his career at Marshall’s all-time leader in field goal percentage at 54.6 percent and currently sits at number nineteenth of all-time in Marshall’s all-time scoring list and eighth all time in rebounds.

“Hal continued to improve his game each and every year,” said Sonny Al- len, former great Hal Greer on Marshall’s all-time leader in points en route to passing William McCrea’s 1957-1960 time with 10 minutes.

“I thought our defense got better in the second half — much better,” Herrion said. “We got some transition, spread the floor up and got some guys to step up for us and make some big plays.”

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Hal Greer talks with fellow Herd alumnus Russel Lee during the final night at Veterans Memorial Fieldhouse. Greer was an honorary coach for the alumni basketball game.

Hal Greer talks with fellow Herd alumnus Russel Lee during the final night at Veterans Memorial Fieldhouse. Greer was an honorary coach for the alumni basketball game.
Birth control does not encroach on religious liberty, freedom

In a decision last week, President Barack Obama shifted his new policy to better cater to religious institutions and their employees. These institutions include religious universites, hospitals and many other places that employ thousands. The original decision mandated these religious employers pay for and instruct programs that would offer free birth control to their female employees. This did not go unnoticed. Many spoke out in opposition to this new plan, some said it violated their First Amendment rights; others said it diminished their religious liberty. To appease the many in opposition to the new plan — predominantly Catholics — President Obama made a slight change to his policy. It is not that the employees that must deal with the cost of coverage, it is the insurance companies. This is in theory, allow religious institutions to wash their hands of birth control.

It is a shame that President Obama received so much opposition to a plan that gives some religious employers the right to access birth control. Churches have a right to preach and declare birth control immoral. However, they do not have the right to deprive anyone in their congregation of birth control and birth control should be spent celebrating love and telling the people in our lives how much we mean to us. For some, that is a part of the holiday is supposed to be spent. Whether or not you are participating in the holiday or not, the day is supposed to be spent celebrating love and telling the people in our lives how much we mean to us.

BY JOANIE BORDERS
THE PARTHENON

Valentine’s Day quickly approaching, I’ve been reflecting on the meaning of this special day and how it evolves the older I get. I remember sitting in my elementary school class and addressing principals and teachers at a nice restaurant. On the other hand, the spectrum, those who do not have a sweetheart have become bitter. I tend to see tweets and Facebook posts that denounce love or invite others to anti-Valentine’s Day parties. I think people who talk about the over-commercialization of the holiday and how it was created by Hallmark.

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> Joanie Borders

Americans Should Start Learning Languages Earlier in Life, School

When it comes to the topic of taking foreign language courses in college, most of us will readily agree it is a more stressful task than a football game. These courses are also more heavily structured with presentations and quizzes. However, if I had to choose one of these major subjects, I would choose learning a new language. Chances are high that we are not going to spend this amount of time doing. In elementary school, my fifth grade teacher taught our class a little bit of Spanish, and to this day, I still remember everything. I can only imagine how well I would be able to speak the language now if I had stuck with it all of my life. I am currently taking my first German course ever, and I have to say it has been already proven to be a challenge. I find myself putting almost all of my extra time into studying flashcards for vocabulary and listening to the song Play the game. For the course. It’s not that I don’t think I am able to learn German at my age, but I am only only 19, but I believe it would have been easier for me.

> Sydney Ranson

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COLUMN

Valentine’s Day should be spent celebrating love, friendship

BY JOANIE BORDERS
THE PARATHENON

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The Thundering Winds hosts debate tournament

BY HENRY CULTHOUSE
THE PARTHENON

Marshall alumni Russell Lee and Hal Greer along with others are honored during halftime of Saturday’s men’s basketball game against East Carolina. More than 100 alumni returned to Huntington for the weekend’s festivities.

“We have all of Marshall students impressed by the skill level of the high school students. Stalnaker said during Word,” organized Marshall University’s own debate team.

Freeman Spanish major, Jackie Stalnaker, 16, from Philippi, W.Va., is a member of Marshall debate team and judged some of the debates. Stalnaker said the skill level of the high school students impressed her.

“I saw a lot of kids today that I just wanted to tell ‘please come to Marshall because they were really good’,” Stalnaker said.

Ezin Deni, 17, a junior from Charleston Catholic, said joining the speech and debate team helped him become more sociable.

“Last year, I really thought I couldn’t speak well in public, I couldn’t really socially connect with people so I thought doing speech would do that and I think it has helped a lot,” Deni said.

Deni said although the schools are competing against one another they all share a sense of camaraderie.

“Everyone is really friendly at speech tournaments,” Deni said. “I went to the first tournament and I was going to quit, but the people were so nice I decided to just keep going.”

Frederick Sabrina Dahida, 11, from East Fairmont, said she thinks her time on the debate team will help her chances for college.

“At first I thought I looked really good on college applications,” Dahida said. “I wanted to be a doctor so that’s just another aspect I can add to when I’m trying to get into college.”


Henry Culthouse can be contacted at culthhous@marshall.edu.

The Faculty Senate Executive Committee will meet today

The Faculty Senate Executive Committee will meet at noon Monday in the John Marshall Field House, the home of Marshall basketball. The road runs alongside the Marshall University campus.

MARCUS CONSTANTINO | THE PARTHENON

Marshall basketball legend Hal Greer, along with others are honored during halftime of Saturday’s men’s basketball game against East Carolina. More than 100 alumni returned to Huntington for the weekend’s festivities.

Greer
Continued from Page 1

whatever was necessary. “I tried to improve every year,” Greer said. “That’s what kept me in the league so long.”

During his NBA career, Greer always was a candidate for the All-Star Game. He was drafted by the Detroit Pistons in 1968, the Nationals moved to Philadelphia in 1964, and the Nationals moved to the Philadelphia 76ers.

He had a 10-year stretch in the NBA that consisted of 16 straight all-star games and was named the NBA’s most valuable player in 1968. Greer averaged at least 20 points per game in eight of those 10 seasons and was a member of the All-NBA second team from 1963-1965. Greer finished his career as the NBA’s third all-time leading scorer. He has since been named one of the NBA’s 50 greatest players of all time.

Hal held his confidence in consistency and admits he never thought he would make it to the NBA growing up.

“I thought there wasn’t no way — my first couple of weeks in the NBA, I didn’t even unpack my bags,” Greer said. “I thought I was a guy that’s growing up I just loved to play basketball. In fact, my first year in the NBA I would have played for free. I just wanted to play.”

Through hard work, I was able to play 15 years with the same franchise.”

Allen also noticed Greer’s dedication. “Not only did Greer improve every year in college, he improved every year for the first six or seven years he was in the pros, as well,” Allen said. “He improved until he got to the top, he was at a level where you couldn’t get any better.”

Greer, who had a stroke almost eight years ago, said condition is improving and he continues to rehabilitate everyday.

“Didn’t affect me like it does other people,” Greer said. “It has affected my right side, but I am working on it, though.”

Friday, Greer returned to Huntington to attend the closing of Veterans Memorial Field House, the home arena he knew for so many years while with the Thundering Herd.

“Hal is one of the NBA’s 50 greatest players,” said Mike Hamrick, Marshall University athletic director. “Wells From veteran here never forgets.”

Greer’s presence continues toloom over the city of Huntington. West Virginia Route 10 is re- named to as Hal Greer Blvd. The road runs alongside the Marshall University campus.

Lucero High tower can be reached at high- tower@marshall.edu.
Cru offers ministry for ROTC students

BY REBECCA STEPHENS

The Marshall University ROTC “Dream Team” presented the color guard at the Veterans Memorial Field House on Friday night for the farewell alumni basketball game.

Cadet Shane Dunn, Cadet Grant Ross, Cadet C.G. Kelly and Cadet Ed Rhodes are known as the “Dream Team” because they are the primary color guard at numerous events, including ROTC ceremonies, as well as football games this season.

“Valor Ministries is for every Friday at 2 or 3 p.m., in Gullickson Hall. Valor Ministries is for students and officers to gather, learn, and share their views on faith and service. Valor Ministries consists of six to 10 members who met for the first time Jan. 20.

Ahigal O’Connell, sophomore psychology major from Frederick, Md., said she became involved because she needed spiritual guidance in her life.

“When I was a child, I was taught to be a süre in my life, and I felt like I was stuck in a rut that I just couldn’t escape.”

O’Connell said joining Valor Ministries opened her eyes to the world and to serve the needs of those who need it.

“It’s made me a better person,” O’Connell said. “Because of Valor, I’ve been involved with a lot of community service programs and serve those around me. It’s made me a lot happier too. I feel like I have not only the people in the program to talk to, but I feel like I am able to talk to a lot more. It’s easier to talk to others and it’s easier for me to be a part of my life.”

Terry said she received help in leading Valor Ministries from C.G. Kelly, junior history major from Williamson, W.Va.

Kelly decided to help lead Valor Ministries because he liked the goal of strengthening the faith of ROTC students.

“It’s representing the country.”

Terry said she feels honored to have been a part of the color guard for the last event at the field house, as presenting the colors is something sacred to him and something very important to the veterans.

“It’s amazing,” Ross said. “I never would have dreamed of it. Growing up around this area, I always went there for things, heard a lot of stories about it. Being able to do the color guard for the last event ever… I’m very honored.”

Rebecca Stephens can be contacted at stephens107@marshall.edu.