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Hoops Showdown

Vigilance Victorious in Central Pacific B-Ball Challenge

The Mermaid Vigilance All-Star Team of Ikhsan "Shark Attack" O'Neil, Mardan "Blue Bear" Jordan, and Noe "El Capitán" Rodman streaked to victory today in a much anticipated and hotly contested matchup at the Aft Deck Arena. The undefeated visiting HooeyKnots may have suffered from overconfidence, as "Layup" Lorraine, "Not Michael" Jourdan, and "Pick & Roll" Packard could not match the scrappy play of the hometown favorites.



Packard muscles his way in the low post



Mardan fakes Lorraine out of her sneakers

Lorraine scored first, and a second basket by Packard gave the 'Knots an early lead. But it was not to last, as the All Stars kept up the pressure and soon took control. Coach "Spider" King called a timeout and pretended to draw up a play, hoping to trick

his opponents into thinking the 'Knots knew what they were doing. The tactic failed as the home team schooled them in what "home court advantage" means. They cleverly bounced the ball off vent covers, railings, and



Jourdan drives in for another missed layup

even off the spectators to the frustration of the visitors, and finished off the "Knots with an 8-5 score. The record low tally was attributed to a particularly nasty swell and (face it) profoundly poor shooting as both teams missed repeatedly from point blank range.

In defeat, the HooeyKnots and their fans stood at center court and sang their chosen song of hope and redemption, "Row, Row, Row Your Boat" to the quizzical looks of the Mermaid fans.

In a post-game interview, 'Knots power forward Jourdan attributed the outcome to bad coaching, improper ball inflation, and incompetent officiating. HooeyKnot fans



Victorious All Stars name Mardan Jordan MVP

Plan of the Day March 6, 2017

- 0900** SEA School, Bryan, Ops. Ctr.
- 1000** Daily Progress Meeting: Ops Ctr.
- 1200** Surprise Abandon Ship Drill.
- TBD** REMUS recovery.

... continued

Ikhsan Natta

Bos'n

Ikhsan Natta is our Bos'n (also called "Bosun" or "Boatswain"), the leader of the deck crew, responsible for the ship's hull and associated structures & fittings. A bosun must be highly skilled in all matters of seamanship required for working on deck of a seagoing vessel. Ikhsan has been working on and taking care of ships since 1994. He is from Palopo in the province of South Sulawesi in Indonesia. The 44 year old has been working in Alaska recently so this job is quite the change of climate! When he's on

land, he and his wife run a mini mart and he works on a farm that produces cocoa, cloves, and white and black pepper. He has three boys ages 18, 12 and 9. The word that comes to mind when you chat with Ikhsan is genuine.

He says he called his family and told them he feels lucky to be a part of this project (he told them the Americans on board are all famous). He called us good-hearted and friendly. He stressed more than once that he appreciates our efforts to make sure we appreciate the crew and consider them a part of our group. He says, "Usually out here we are always thinking about our families,

but this time because we are happy sometimes we forget. This is the first time that I am very, very happy working." The best part of being out to sea for him is getting to swap experiences and life lessons with people he would otherwise never meet. —Marika Lorraine



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were clearly not pleased; one complained the referee was dishonest. There was no comment from the league, though referee Joe "Popeye" Litchfield said in his opinion the HoeyKnots were a "bunch of half-witted high tide clam diggers."

Noe "El Capitán" Rodman praised his teammates and graciously gave



Jordan blames coach and refs for loss

the HoeyKnots credit for a good effort and nice hair. Meanwhile, rumors swirled around accusations that some inducement was offered to the referee to "keep it fair." The source went on to say he threw the money back after the game saying something about it was "not enough."

What's next for the HoeyKnots? Will there be a rematch? Will free agent Lorraine hold out for a bigger contract and a supply of styrofoam cups? Will Packard be traded for transponder floats? The coming weeks will tell.

AWARDS

Today after the Sunday bar-b-cue we gathered all hands and recognized the Deck Crew for the great work they did improving the appearance and safety of the

boarding area. They spent about three days working with Joe on this. More important was their willingness to contribute to a larger team effort. In sincere appreciation for the extraordinary services of the deck department on behalf of the Eustace Earhart Discovery Expedition, *Terima Kasih!*

Ikhsan Natta (Bos'n)
Andi Burhan
Ahmad Derita
Mahmud Abdullah



In the end, we all were winners and make a great team!

MERMAID CLASSIFIEDS

PERSONALS 100

SUE'S SEASIDE SALON open for business by appointment. Sue shears salty sailors by the seaside.

DOWN DOG! Hot yoga, Spaulding's Aft Deck Studio, Fridays, 2 PM. Wear sunscreen. Exclusive environmentally friendly energy-saver solar heating. Free mantras while supplies last. "Goddess" Marika instructs.

WANTED 200

STORIES for *Meridian Passages*. Keep 'em coming! Dave 4031.

FOR SALE 400

LOST & FOUND 500

LOST: Ball cap with "WW II 60th Anniversary Battle of Saipan & Tinian" motif. Valuable memento of a veteran of the battle, our own Elgen Long. This is no joke!

Place New Ads by Friday – ed.