

VS-38 Hoopsters Down 2nd. Div. 37-30 To Win Washington Birthday Tourney

"The Claws" of VS-38 took top honors in the first annual George Washington's Birthday Basketball Tournament aboard BENNINGTON as they defeated 2nd Division 37-30 for the championship.

The single elimination tourney was held enroute to Hawaii and sponsored by Commander, Antisubmarine Warfare Group FIVE, USS BENNINGTON and Anti - Submarine Warfare Air Group 59.

First day's competition saw eight teams earn berths in the Sunday quarter-finals with 2nd Division Steelers, S-3 Division Hotspots, HS-8 Helocats and VS-38 Claws remaining for late afternoon semi-finals.

First game of the semi-final round saw seaman Joe Young net 16 points in leading the Steelers to a 37-35 victory over S-3 Hotspots. High scorer for the Hotspots were Murrey with 12 and Ephraim, 8.

HS-8 Helocats took on VS-38 Claws in the second semi-final game but were unable to match the dead-eye shooting of Claw's tall center, Gilbert, as he accounted for 15 points. Ferreira and Rogalski tallied 8 points each for the Helocats as the team missed 10 free throws and succumbed to a not-to-be-ashamed 30-26 defeat.

More than 500 fans attended the championship game, cheering their team to victory and saw the Claws take an early lead in the first minutes of play with four consecutive charity tosses by guard White.

The game lagged in the opening minutes until Brannard of the Claws sank the first two - pointer on a lay up. Injured on the play, he was replaced with Grant who sparked the team to a 21-14 half time lead with 8 points in the closing minutes of play.

The second half saw Joe



WAY UP - VS-38 center, Gilbert (21), gets the jump on Haire of 2nd Division during the 37-30 victory that gave the air-dale's undisputed championship over 15 other teams.



CHAMPIONSHIP TIP-OFF - Admiral Caldwell prepares to toss the ball up beginning the first half of championship play aboard BENNINGTON while enroute to Hawaii.