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# ★ SPORTS SNAPSHOTS ★

While we were in Gitmo four more of the ship's varsity teams started to compete with other Naval Units and civilian organizations. Most of the contests were considered practice tiffs by the Coaches while they made their plans for full scale schedules in the States.

Despite the limited practice sessions and the growing pains of organization, one thing seems to be pretty clear---- all of the teams are going to do a lot more than hold their own when they get caught up in the swirl of East Coast service athletics.

The four teams---tennis, baseball, golf and pistol---piled up a total win-loss record of 8 to 1 during the shakedown cruise.

Even more impressive, many of our wins were by lopsided scores. Two more teams---swimming and boxing---will see action for the first time in the near future.

The baseball team has treated 4 of their 5 games as practice sessions with LCdr. Junk clearing the benches in an effort to give every man a chance to play. Despite this they can still boast of a 4 to 1 record which includes defeating one of the most highly touted nines in Cuba.

Our team played its first string all the way against a Cuban squad composed of workers at the Navy Base. This team was voted out of the League at the Navy Base because it was considered entirely too strong...3 of their players have been cumshawed by the Pirate's farm system in the States.

The Cuban pitcher was knocked out of the game in the first inning as our team pounded out 4 runs. From there on in it was the Bennington all the way with a final score of 11 to 5.



George Sherbondy, a strong right hander from Crestline, Ohio, went all the way on the mound. He was the leading pitcher for the Training Center (San Diego) team before coming to the Bennington. The Diego nine copped the 11th Naval District crown in 1950 and again in 1951....LCdr. Junk's assistant, LCdr. Stranahan, believes that the team's batting hit its high so far in the game against the U.S.S. Cone. The score was 11 to 2 as our line-up teed off against the hapless Cone hurlers. "The batting was very good," beamed LCdr. Stranahan. Both Cone tallies were unearned runs in the first inning.

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The golf team hasn't been able to line up another match since their sojourn to Jamaica when they copped the Upton Country Club's Open Championship. The team can retire the trophy if they are able to defend it successfully once within a year after winning. Something for Coach Smith and Company to try for!

Chief Lakin's boxers will have their first public workout at the smoker Saturday night. The Chief is optimistic about his wards--and he has a right to be. Many of them have had experience in organized boxing including good showings in the Golden Gloves. A good example is George Marrow, a stocky 26 year old Texan who will fight as a middleweight.

Marrow reached the semi-finals of the San Diego Golden Gloves in 1948. Later that year he was chosen to try out for the Olympic Squad but an untimely leg injury put him out of action just before the tryouts. Bill Arnold is another welterweight who knows his way around the ring. He has had 13 official bouts and has won 9--4 of them by



Marrow

knockouts. Arnold's left jab is fast and strong--strong enough to carry him to the finals of the Golden Gloves MidSouth Tournament in 1950. The boxing team does need a good heavyweight. Before the team tangles with outsiders Chief Lakin is going to make sure it is in good physical shape---the irregular workouts so far are not enough to prepare a man for a full fight, he believes.



Arnold

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The tennis team furthered its winning habit last week by whipping the U.S.S. Worcester 8 to 0. This makes the third match our netsters have taken by a lopsided score. They are undefeated. The big man in the tennis team's attack is Cdr. E.B. Berger who holds down the #1 singles spot. Standing 6ft. 3in. tall, the Cdr. brings a lot of tennis experience to the courts--he has yet to lose a game while playing for the ship. This is comparable to going unscored upon in football.

Frank Langston, GM2, has been the consistent high scorer for the Pistol team. He was high man in the match with the Worcester shooting for a score of 288. This is only 12 points from a perfect score. Langston holds the rating of a Navy Expert--- this rating is given only to the few top marksmen shooting for the Navy. He also has an NRA rating of "Sharpshooter."



Langston

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Chief Lewis is still sweating out a diver for the swimming squad. Anyone who would like to try out will be very welcome at the next practice....The varsity softball team still needs a coach. The intermural softball tourney showed that the ship has enough talent to field a good team.

## BACK YOUR TEAMS