

Nürnberg Alumni Association Online Archive

Nürnberg American High School

a U.S. Army dependents school formerly located in Fürth/Bavaria, Germany

1976 –77 School Year

31st year of the school's existence

Graduating Class of 1977

This File:

Memorabilia

Coach Tom Gussner's Summary of the Varsity's Basketball Season

**A Story about O'Dillard Johnson and Magic Johnson from the
NAA *Trichter***

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NAA

Trichter



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Nürnberg Alumni Association

Spring-Summer, 2017

A salute to the sevens...

The class of 1977—from Coach Gussner

By Tom Gussner

The 1976-77 Nürnberg Eagles Basketball Team

- Conference Record: 9 Wins - 5 Losses
- Returning Lettermen from '75-'76: Herb Davis, O'Dillard Johnson, Billy Scott, Dee Williams
- Blue Division Tournament: Third Place

Blue Division Tournament Champion ('75-'76), Wiesbaden, opened the contest by handing Nürnberg its first loss of the season on Friday night. On Saturday, Dennis Pasley and Andre Stokes held Warrior leading scorer, Shelton Redden, to four points (he had 27 on Friday), and Herb Davis pulled down 19 rebounds to lead the Eagles to a 63- 56 victory. Zack Earvin, O'Dillard Johnson, Ron Duxtater, and Davis all were in double figures in both games.

The Ansbach Christmas Tournament was of particular significance because it may have been the only tournament Nürnberg has ever won, and the Eagles had to come from behind in two of the three games to accomplish the feat. Johnson totaled 52 points and 50 rebounds in the three games, while Davis cleared the boards 63 times.

Four of the last five years, Nürnberg and Stuttgart split their weekend games, and this was no exception. In spite of Johnson's 23 points in each game, the Stallions survived with a four point win on Saturday. Davis contributed 24 points, and Duxtater 21 for the



Left to Right, front row: Gary Williams, Tony Faison, Derek Stewart, Eric Jackson Billy Scott, David Williams, Zack Earvin. Left to Right, back row: Coach Gussner, Andre Stokes, O'Dillard Johnson, Ronnie Duxtater, Herb Davis, Dennis Pasley, Carl Smith, (not seen, Jeff "Oscar" Smith) Photo courtesy of Coach G.

(Continued on page 14)

Coach Gussner's '77 team

(Continued from page 1)
weekend.

In Heidelberg, Johnson led the way with 25 in the second game to complete the sweep of the Lions. Davis and Earvin each added 13.

In Bitburg, Johnson and Davis combined for 72 points, but divided a pair of close games with the Barons. The Eagles prevailed 66-60 on Friday night, but Bitburg pulled out a 64-60 squeaker in the day game. With Doxtater and Davis controlling the boards, NHS swept Mannheim for the second year in a row. Earvin led all scorers with 18, Dee Williams added 15, Doxtater 12, Davis and Pasley 10 each on Friday. Johnson hit 23 on Saturday, Earvin had 16, Davis 15, and Doxtater 10 counters.

It was not unusual for the Eagles to take 80 shots per game, but the Green and White has never shot well in Kaiserslautern. After shooting 26% on Friday, Nürnberg had a better game

on Saturday, but still lost by seven points. The Eagles regrouped and swept Frankfurt for the first time in recent memory behind Johnson's 42 point weekend. Doxtater and Earvin each had two game totals of 26 markers in contests that were not decided until the final seconds.

The Blue Division Tournament provided much more excitement as Nürnberg downed Bitburg 49-45 in the first game, then lost to K-Town in overtime by four points. The Eagles secured third place by beating Frankfurt for the third time that year.

O'Dillard Johnson and Herb Davis were voted onto the Blue Division All Conference Team. O'Dillard was also named to the S&S All Europe Men's Second Team.

In addition, Johnson was selected to play in the Albert Schweitzer Tournament in Mannheim, joining Ray White '75 as the only two Eagles to play in that venue. Among the eight

players from high schools in the states were Earvin "Magic" Johnson, Darnell Valentine, Tracy Jackson, Eddie Johnson, and Jeff Lamp.



The Stars and Stripes

Tuesday, February 15, 1977

Nürnberg High Quintets take 4 from Frankfurt

By DAN SYNOVEC

Nürnberg bureau chief

NÜRNBERG, Germany (S&S) — A few years ago everyone was talking about Hollywood's Bob, Carol, Ted and Alice.

Today in Nürnberg, basketball fans are talking about O'Dillard, Marion, Herb and Lisa.

O'Dillard Johnson and Herb Davis have been the sparkplugs of coach Tom Gussner's Nürnberg Eagles during this season's Blue Division prep campaign and the pair turned in sterling performances here over the weekend as Nürnberg turned back

the Frankfurt Eagles, 76-66, Friday night and then hung on to win Saturday in a barnburner, 67-66.

Marion Fairbanks and Lisa Price, each displaying all kinds of cage wizardry this season, propelled Clete Campbell's Nürnberg Eaglettes past Frankfurt, 68-49 Friday and 59-44 Saturday.

Johnson blistered the nets for 22 points Friday to pace Gussner's Eagles, while Davis, who netted 12 points, grabbed 15 rebounds to control the boards in a tussle that saw Frankfurt holding a 66-65 lead with only 1:08 left in the contest.

Nürnberg's Dennis Pasley stole the ball and drove in for a layup to put Nürnberg ahead and Gussner's flashy bandits added 10 more points in the final minute to put the game out of reach.

Ron Doxtater netted 11 points for Nürnberg while Zack Earvin added 10 markers. Glen Dodd paced Frankfurt scoring with 19 points, while Roderic Turner tallied 14 and James Frazier connected with 12.

Fairbanks tallied 25 points to pace Nürnberg Eaglette scoring Friday, while Price and Amanda Tugwell each tallied 14.

Nürnberg held a narrow 26-24 advantage

at the half as Frankfurt's Leslie Whiting connected for 10 of her 20 points in the first half to keep Frankfurt in the game.

Nürnberg soared back in the third quarter, with Fairbanks controlling the boards, by tallying 20 points to Frankfurt's 10. Then it blistered the nets for 22 points in the final quarter while Frankfurt managed only 15 points to turn the contest into a rout.

In Saturday's men's encounter, Davis, a rugged 6-1 center, tipped in a Doxtater shot with a little more than a minute to play to give Nürnberg a 67-60 lead. However, Andre Stokes fouled Frankfurt's Frazier, who calmly flipped in two free throws. Dodd hit a 6-foot jump shot to narrow Nürnberg's lead to 67-64 with a minute to play. Giving Nürnberg a lesson in thievery, Frankfurt's Turner stole the ball, drove in for a layup making it 67-66 with 55 seconds left on the clock and all the fans on their feet.

Nürnberg's Pasley, who was fouled by Trey Guyman, had a chance to put the game on ice for Nürnberg, but he missed both free throws giving Frankfurt the ball. However, Dodd missed a layup, and Johnson, who turned in another sterling performance by scoring 20 points, grabbed the rebound as time ran out.

Davis, who scored only six points, grabbed 25 rebounds.

Whiting tallied 26 points for the Frankfurt Eaglettes Saturday but it wasn't enough. Fairbanks, a 5-11 center, grabbed 26 rebounds and scored 22 points to pace Nürnberg. Price, who fouled out in the fourth quarter, added 13 points for Campbell's Eaglettes.



O'Dillard Johnson



NAA

Trichter



Der Nürnberger Trichter, sicher und schnell, macht de Köpfe hell!

The NAA *Funnel* reliably and quickly makes one brighter!

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Spring 2012

A publication by and for the alumni, faculty, and staff of the former Nürnberg American High School.

By Bob McQuitty

In April, the biennial Albert Schweitzer International Basketball Tournament for high school players will begin in Mannheim, Germany. As usual, some Department of Defense Dependent Schools players will be on the American team.

In 1977, NHS alumnus O'Dillard Johnson was on the American team that won the tournament. That team included another Johnson, a high school senior named Earvin "Magic" Johnson.

This information came to light when I was handed a clipping by OUR Johnson at the 2011 reunion in Boise, Idaho. It pictured the 1977 winning

A Tale of Two Johnsons

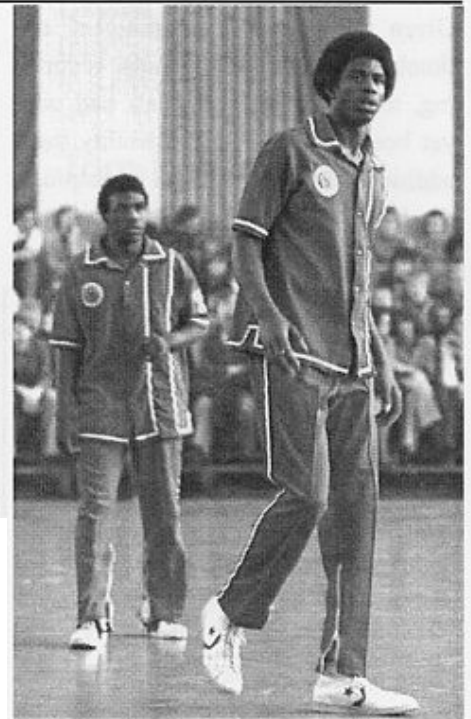
**O'Dillard Johnson Remembers NHS
and the Albert Schweitzer Basketball Tournament**

U.S. team, which went undefeated, breezing past Spain, France, Italy, Belgium, and Czechoslovakia in the qualifying round. It trounced Germany 146-47 in the semifinal and beat Spain 137-110 in the championship game.

Recently O'Dillard shared some memories of his time at NHS and of playing in the Schweitzer tournament.

The Albert Schweitzer tournament, named after the famous German missionary and humanitarian, began in

(Continued on page 6)



O'Dillard and Earvin "Magic" Johnson warm up for final tournament game against Spain in April, 1977

Two Johnsons continued

(Continued from page 1)

1958 and since then has been held every two years, with some breaks in continuity. It is sponsored by the German Basketball Federation, the city of Mannheim, and the U.S. military community in Mannheim.

To man the U.S. team in 1977,



O'Dillard in Team U.S.A. uniform

eight high school All-Americans were brought to Germany. Four players were selected from dependent school teams in Europe. This method of putting together a team has been very productive, as the U.S. has won 10 of the 25 tournaments and is the unchallenged record holder, much to the delight of the numerous American spectators.

Tom Gussner remembered that during his six years as NHS varsity coach, two players from Nürnberg were selected for the U.S. team. The first was Ray White, '75. O'Dillard said White was his inspiration to try out for the 1977 team. And O'Dillard

remembered Coach Gussner's influence: "I had a stepfather that I didn't get along with, so Coach Gussner was like a father figure for me."

The tryouts were run by the Heidelberg head coach Dick Stewart, who thought highly of all the NHS players. O'Dillard figured he might have a shot at the team since, as he said, "I had put a job on him [Stewart] for two years straight, so he knew me well." O'Dillard had averaged 20 points per game in two games against Heidelberg his senior year.

When the players from the U.S. arrived, the practice sessions began in earnest. In something of an understatement, O'Dillard conceded that "all of these guys were pretty good." He singled out Darnell Valentine, Pete Budko, Tracy Jackson, Tommy Baker and the OTHER Johnson. In the tournament, Earvin Johnson, 6' 7", was the team's top scorer, averaging 20 points per game, but Baker received the "Best Player" award. All of the players from the U.S. went on to play in college and at least briefly for the NBA.

O'Dillard recalled a time he took on Magic when Coach Stewart was running 3

on 2 practice drills. "Magic had the ball in the center, faked, then took two more steps and dunked the ball. In retaliation, when I was on offense, I stopped five feet from the top of the circle and took a jump shot. Swish!"

"Even as a high school player, Magic was known for what came to be called 'Show Time' when he played for the Lakers -- behind the back and no-look passes. As a center he would often get the rebound, dribble down the court, outrunning the other big guys, and either pass off or score himself," said O'Dillard.

As might be expected, none of the players from the U.S. had ever been outside the country, so O'Dillard had the fun of serving as a host for them. He spoke enough German to play tour guide, assisted by his best friend, who lived in Mannheim. They took the neophytes to a dance at an American Youth Activity center, showed them the pleasures of Bratwurst, and acquainted them with Mannheim girls.

O'Dillard remembered his time at NHS fondly. He said his favorite teachers were Mr. Jim Mulder and

Continued on page 7.



O'Dillard going up for a shot against Stuttgart January 8, 1977. Herb Davis (42) is in the foreground and Andre Stokes (22) is in the background.

Two Johnsons continued

(Continued from page 6)

Coach Gussner. A member of the National Honor Society, he recalled his competition with Wendy Bulkin, who was known for setting the curve in her classes – with O'Dillard close behind. He claimed friendship with "everybody." His pals on the basketball team were Walter Redd, Herb Davis, Tony Newton, David Williams, and Rodney Davis.

On Coach Gussner's team, which ran a three guard offense, O'Dillard played outside wing and took and made a lot of shots that today would be 3-pointers. He played on the varsity team two years. Nürnberg finished 7-5 in 1975-76 and 9-5 in '76-'77 with a third place finish in the Blue Division Tournament at the end of the season. In his senior year, he was the team's leading scorer, and Gussner said that O'Dillard, though only 6 foot tall, was an excellent rebounder and a strong defensive player. O'Dillard was selected to the *Stars and Stripes* All-Europe Men's Team as one of the top 20 players in Europe as well as the



Former Eagle Basketballers Get Together in Boise
Left to right: Herb Davis '77, Walter Redd '77, Dave Worland '62, (MVP in Class A USAREUR tournament), Dennis Berry '77, O'Dillard Johnson '77 (Blue Division All-Conference Team, All-Europe Men's Team), Ted Brostrom '58.(All-USAREUR)

Blue Division All-Conference Team.

After graduation, O'Dillard attended Oklahoma University briefly in the fall of 1977. He couldn't afford a second semester and had to drop out. Later he attended Central Texas College in Killeen, TX, at that time a community college.

In Killeen he started to work for the Piccadilly Cafeteria Company. In four years he had worked himself up to chef. He later worked for Piccadilly in Waco, Tulsa, Kansas City, and oth-

er cities.

During the Iraq War, O'Dillard worked for a service contractor that fed our troops. He was supervising cook over 21 American chefs. The building where he worked had eight serving lines, seated 5000 at one time, and served 32,000 soldiers a day.

Food is O'Dillard's profession today. Basketball was his game.

O'Dillard Takes On Teammate Ray White

Each year after the basketball season, I would open the gym for players who were not involved in a spring sport. Sometimes we would play G.I.'s, German teams, or just each other.

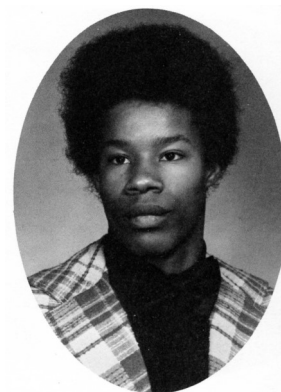
O'Dillard was a sophomore in the spring of 1975, had just completed a year of junior varsity basketball, and lived in Bamberg, but usually attended the sessions on Monday. Ray White was a 6'3" senior who had just finished play in the Albert Schweitzer Tournament and played well.

One day, O'Dillard had just stolen the ball and Ray was in hot pursuit. It appeared that he would block O'Dillard's shot from behind.

I was standing next to O'Dillard's J.V. coach Milton Jackson, who said, "Watch this, O'Dillard is not afraid of anybody." O'Dillard took Ray to the hoop and scored.

At that moment I knew he would be starting on the varsity team the next season as a junior.

– Tom Gussner



Ray White

Persistence and dedication make champions.

Meet the 1977 Albert Schweitzer International Basketball Tourney Champions.



STANDING LEFT TO RIGHT—

Jeff Lamp, Ballard H S, Louisville, KY; Art Jones, Hampton H S, Hampton, VA; Lt. Col. Dick McCann, U.S.A., Assistant Coach, Washington D.C.; Pete Budko, Loyola H S, West Towson, MD; Dick Stewart, Coach, Karamursel, Turkey; Eddie Johnson, Westinghouse H S, Chicago, IL; Brig General Theodore S. Kanamine, U.S. Military Community Commander, Mannheim, Germany; Andrae Sessoms, Wiesbaden H S, Germany; Bob Cato, Wuerzburg H S, Germany; Joey Surkin, Team Manager, Heidelberg, Germany

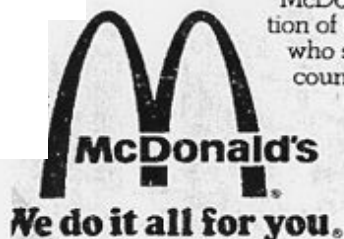
KNEELING LEFT TO RIGHT—

O'Dillard Johnson, Nuernberg H S, Germany; Darnell Valentine Heights H S, Wichita KS; **Earvin Johnson, Co-Captain, Everett H S, Lansing MI;** Tommy Baker, Co-Captain, Jeffersonville H S, Jeffersonville, IN, 1977 Schweitzer Tournament "Best Player" Coaches Award; Tracy Jackson, Paint Beach H S, Burtonsville, MD; Don Kennedy, Berlin H S, Germany

Eight McDonald's® High School Basketball All-Americans, and four of the best U.S. high school players residing in Europe. They're the ones who joined together to represent our country in the past April's ninth biennial Albert Schweitzer Tournament in Mannheim, Germany.

The tournament, played in the Olympic two-group format, was also joined by the junior national teams of eleven European countries. The U.S. team went undefeated; breezed past Spain, France, Italy, Belgium, and Czechoslovakia in the qualifying round. Beat Germany 146 to 47 in the semifinal; and in the championship game, beat Spain 137 to 110.

McDonald's salutes the persistence and dedication of the 1977 Albert Schweitzer Champions, who showed as much class in representing our country as they did in competition.



O'Dillard Johnson is first on left kneeling. Earvin (Magic) Johnson is third from left with his hand on the ball — Archivist