

Alameda Acorns Beat U.S. Army In Practice Tilt

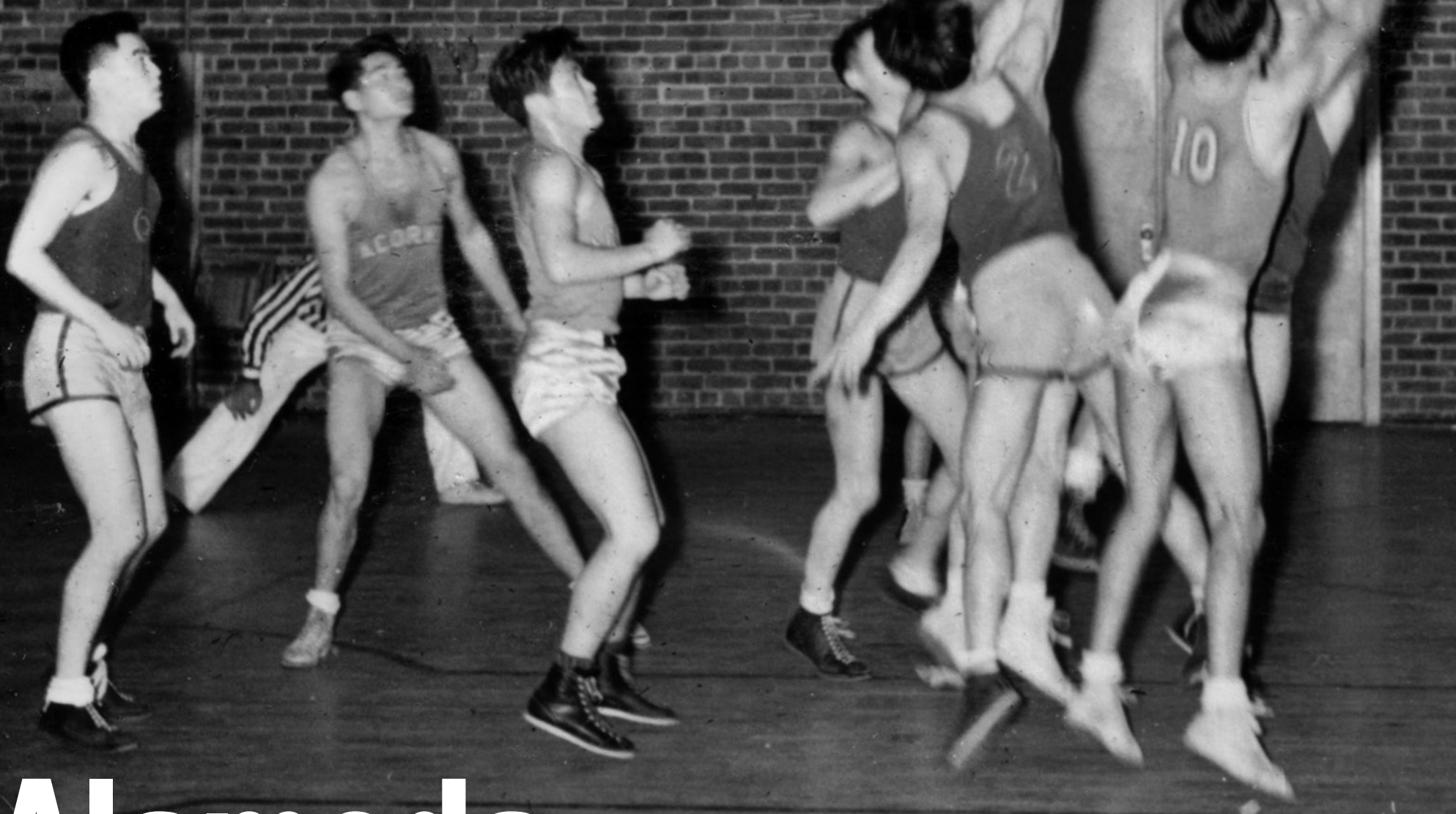
ALAMEDA, Feb. 9—In a practice game, the Alameda Acorns defeated the U.S. Army, 32-11, Thursday night at the local high school gym. At the half the Acorns held a 17-7 advantage.

The Acorns were originally scheduled to meet the U.S. Marines in a city league tilt.

The irony of life in Alameda, CA., during World War II is apparent in these news articles from February 1942.

How did the Acorns feel about playing a practice game against the **U.S. Army**?! If there were ill feelings, they weren't reported. Perhaps both teams somehow treated it as just another game. Or did the Acorns have an incentive to defeat the Army?

February 10, 1942
Nichibei Shinbun



Alameda **ACORNS**

a community basketball team deals with World War II in February 1942

The same month that the Acorns beat the U.S. Army but later lost a city league game to team Ratto, the Japanese in Alameda would be evacuated to assembly centers and soon after, sent to the WWII incarceration camps.



All photos:

Alameda Acorns at Alameda High School gym, circa 1938 to February 1942.

Courtesy Jean Hattori Howard

That final season, the war changed the lives of every Japanese in Alameda, and the Acorns lost every Japanese Amateur Athletic Union (JAAU) game they played.

Losing the tallest man on the team to the U.S. Army, **Haruo "Howe" Hanamura**, didn't help. **Rolly Kadonaga** had left for the Army in January.

The Acorns were in disarray.

On February 12, the Acorns lost their final Alameda City League game of the '42 season.

3 More Alameda Nisei Join Army

ALAMEDA, Feb. 10—Howe Hanamura, stellar member of the Alameda Acorns basketball team, will leave for the army reception center Wednesday morning, boosting the total nisei selectees from this city to 22.

Last Monday Takuzo Mikami joined the army as did Hiroshi Sugiyama the week before.

Hanamura's elder brother, Tates, is also in the army and is stationed somewhere in the northwest.

February 11, 1942 • Nichibei Shinbun

City of Alameda basketball league
February 15, 1942 • Nichibei Shinbun

Alameda Acorns Drop Final City Loop Tilt, 49-36

ALAMEDA, Feb. 14 — In their final city league game, the Alameda Acorns were defeated by the Ratto and Parodi team, 49-36, last Thursday night at the local high school gym.

Min Ota with 10 points led the attack for the losers.

The Acorn summaries: Min Oto 10, Paul Hayashi 4, Harry Kanemasu 4, George Kuge 7, Jun Wada 3, Sam Rokutani 6, Yas Yamashita 2.

Alameda Acorns To Meet Sunday

ALAMEDA, Feb. 14—A general meeting of the Alameda Acorn basketball club will be held Sunday from 1 p.m. at the JACL headquarters here, according to Mas Nakata, president of the organization.

February 15, 1942 • Nichibei Shinbun

The following Sunday, they met at the local JACL, likely to discuss the fate of the team, and perhaps their lives.

The Acorns, founded in 1938 with members from the Buddhist Temple of Alameda and also their across the street neighbors, the Japanese Methodist Church, would never return to the court again.

CLASS AA		
Team	W	L
Berkeley Nisseis	6	1
San Francisco YMBA Protos ..	5	1
Palo Alto A. C.	5	2
Oakland Methodists	4	2
San Francisco YMCA	3	2
Oakland YBA	2	5
UC JSC	0	6
Alameda Acorns	0	6

JAAU league standings, March 19, 1942
Nichibei Shinbun