

The legend of Team Alcantara

Oldest team in ABL to win a championship...again.



“ As another season of ABL ends, the euphoria of one of the oldest team to win an ABL championship will also end. But what will never end is the way basketball is intertwined in their lives. The goal is now to play till 55. The team will be blown out for sure in the coming years. But it doesn't matter. Their opponents will be old also, may be keep it close and even if they lose, there will be that Wednesday Night for everyone to look forward to, to play slo-mo ball and share the memories of the game that everyone lives for. “

ABL CHAMPIONSHIP RECAP, MARCH 2014

“ The last time the core of this team won the Francisco Division crown was 3 years ago as Team Marquez. It was already the oldest team ever to win an ABL championship... Take a bow (but not too much or you'll hurt your backs) ancient warriors. You just made History. “

ABL CHAMPIONSHIP RECAP , MARCH 2017

“ Oops, we did it again...

ABL CHAMPIONSHIP RECAP , MARCH 2019

Once again, Team Alcantara (aka Team Marquez/Tan) cements itself in ABL history as the oldest team to win a championship in a division with younger players than them. Again.

Smarting from a last season's Finals loss decided by a last second heave (more on that later), Team Alcantara on that very night of the Finals loss decided to keep retirement plans on hold and give a Final run for the old men. (A lot of San Mig lights usually are the reason for that bravado).

History does repeat itself. In all of the team's numerous titles throughout the different years, there are things that remain a constant to the identity of the team. Sharing the ball, 3 point shooting, rebounds and a tough and rugged defensive mindset.

This season was no different. After a come from behind win in the first game, the team raced to a 6-1 elimination record heading to the Finals. In spite of 3 emotional games with Generoso and an upset loss to HS 90, Alcantara played to their strengths. The team finished the season as the number 1 in 3 point shooting team with a division best 59 makes at 213 attempts. First also in assists, blocks, steals.

The finals saw the only team that beat them face Alcantara for the crown. The 3rd rank team upset the 2nd ranked team with a surprise addition of an ex PBA center. Having faced numerous PBA players in their ABL careers (Chito Loyzaga, Steve Watson, Joy Carpio, Eric Reyes, Richie Ticzon to name a few), the team was not fazed and buckled down to a dominating 12 point Finals win, shutting the divisions 25 plus leading scorer to 9 points.

Although the recipe for team success stayed the same, there was a lot of personal

Sacrifices to make it happen. Former starters Dino Jalandoni and Raffy Veloso gave up their minutes to lead the team. Along with Gerry Sison.

With a game plan of a 3 minute rotation per player and the addition of new teammates, the usual bigs saw less minutes but it did not stop Richmond Tan, Bernie Cruz, Sonny Borja, Lito Bernardino and Nol De Leon. Everyone had a signature individual game as the season unfolded. Even the injured erstwhile main scorer of the team, Raul Banzon battled thru his offensive struggles and contributed with his rebounds and intimidating defense.

The backcourt split its minutes accordingly also. Mythical team members Midas Marquez and Charlie Gatmaitan can go all out knowing a deep bench follows them. Super Sub Hubert Guevara comes off the bench at 2 and 3 with guns blazing. If that doesn't happen, Ateneo sports hall of famer Marcel Banzon can join the fray with his 60 year old deadly jumpers. Abet Nolido comes in at point with a steady hand and an occasional ESPN highlight shot.

This season saw new and returning faces join the team. Mythical team member and high school 83 batch mate Bong Arroyo made his return to the team after 12 plus years absence. His steady presence offensively and defensively heavily contributed to the winning campaign. Also some youngsters were added to help out aging legs. Andy Gomez Di Liano (GDXL) gave 5pg and some needed rebounds. Derick Santos in the few games that he was allowed to play by his wife had bright moments in 3, D and playmaking.

The final buzzer rang for another title. But will it also sound for the last dance of some members? Even if that happens, the legend of team Alcantara will always live on. From the early years of the Detroit Bad Boys to the efficiency of the Spurs in their older years, the game will forever will be played the right way by this team. 1,2,3... Defense!

From the guy who heaved that shot that ruined our three peat

Congrats guys! You rock!

*ang contrabida ng "Legend of Team Alcantra"

Billydel