

# Quintets Await Tournament Action

by Gordon Rice

**Emerald Assistant News Editor**

The 36th annual high school basketball tournament opens in McArthur court Tuesday with 16 of the top teams in the state competing for the crown won last year by Marshfield high school.

The Pirates will be on hand again this year to defend the title, but they won't be the favorites. Milwaukie, ranked first in both the Associated Press and Oregon Journal polls throughout most of the season, has yet to clinch a berth in the tournament, but that hasn't prevented the odds-makers from listing them as the leading contender for the crown.

Three other power-laden teams are given a good chance to go all the way this year. Eugene, second in the state last year; Corvallis, which had one of the longest winning streaks in the state going through part of the season, and Roosevelt, the Portland Interscholastic league champ, join the other two clubs as the class of the tournament this year.

As usual, tournament fans will not see some of the top individual performers in the state, because their teams lost out in district competition. Among those missing will be Oakridge's Paul Tucharth, who broke the Lane county scoring record set in 1951 by Dean Parsons of Eugene. Parsons scored 621 in 29 games; Tucharth scored 632 in 26 starts.

Another record-breaker the fans at this tournament won't see is Newberg's Ruben Rosen, who smashed the TYV league scoring record set by Don Porter of McMinnville in 1952. Dick Jolley of Cleveland, PIL scoring champion and the only unanimous choice in Portland, will also miss the state tourney.

But these cases are isolated compared to the number of outstanding teams and performers that will be entered. Here is a rundown of the 16 clubs participating in this year's tournament:

**Dist. 1: ONTARIO.** The Tigers from the Snake River Valley conference came into the tournament boasting a 21 and 3 record for the season. Making their first appearance in history at the tourney last year, the Tigers made a strong showing even though they lost their first two games to The Dalles and Medford. Returning from that team are Wayne Anderson and Ken Ackerman, guards; Dave Barton, Darwin Hall and Burke Nicholson, forwards, and center Charles Binder. The latter four stand 6'4", 6'2", 6'3" and 6'5", respectively. Ontario also boasts the smallest player in this year's tournament, 5'3" Clivw Morikawa.

**Dist. 2: THE DALLES.** The Indians placed third in last year's state tournament, but lost almost the whole team by graduation.

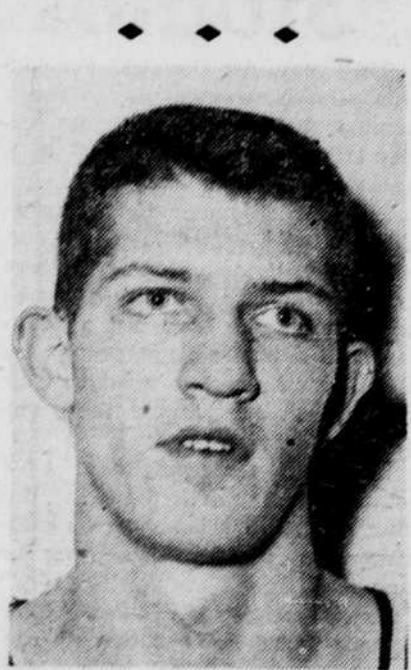
Ranked 11th in the latest Associated Press poll, Ted Sarpola's men have a noticeable lack of height. Gary Haynes, at 6'1" the tallest man on the starting five, has paced the squad with an average of nearly 20 points a game this year. Also back from last year's tourney team are Dave Jones, who was fourth in tournament scoring for The Dalles, and forward Tom Head. Cal Callaway, a reserve last year, Jerry Urness and Fandrey complete the starting unit.

**Dist. 3: MADRAS.** The Central Oregon league entry will be making its first appearance in the class A tournament. The White Buffaloes finished second in the league behind a three-way tie for first place and then got hot in a single elimination district tournament. A stronger team than their record would indicate, Madras holds a victory over The Dalles and won the early-season Linfield Old Grads' tournament. Bill Machamer, 6'1" center is the tallest man on the starting five, but has a 17.1 average for the season. The other four starters are Larry Fivecoat, Danny Macy, Roger Diddock and Charles Nathan, the later three all 5'10". Fivecoat is 5'9".

**Dist. 4: GRANTS PASS.** The Cavemen made their last appearance in 1950, finishing second behind Salem that year. Sam Dean, 6'4" center has paced the southern Oregon team most of the year. Ranked eighth in the latest AP poll, they hold a 17 and 7 record for the season. The other four starters are Gary Sutphin, Gene Barber, Bill Hansen, and either Jim Reid or Don James. James, a junior is the brother of Dick James, the University of Oregon athlete.

**Dist. 5: MARSHFIELD.** The defending champions lost the first six men off their squad by graduation, but came back to compile a 20 and 7 record this year and end up third in the AP poll. Coach Bruce Hoffine, in his third year as coach of the perennial contenders, has a well-balanced squad with good average height, but no outstanding big man. Bob Ayre, Ron Jones, Steve Bigelow and Wayne Young, all veterans of last year's squad range between 6' and 6'1 1/2". Sophomore Sandy Fraser, 6'1", and Freshman Roger Johnson round out the nucleus of the Pirate club. The only team besides Milwaukie to receive a first place vote in the latest AP poll, the Pirates could go all the way if they get past the Mustangs in the first round.

**Dist. 6: EUGENE.** Any team with nine returning veterans from a squad which placed second in the state last year should be favored to win this one, even if three of those nine weren't second team all-state players a year ago. Coach Hank Kuchera apparently has everything he needs to win the state title this year. Returning are the



**WADE HALBROOK, OSC's outstanding center, made the all-star team two years in a row when he was playing in the high school classic a couple of years ago. This year's tourney gets underway next Tuesday night at McArthur Court.**

three all-stars, Don Ainge, 6'3", Norm Willoughby, 6'4" and Wendy Rasor, 5'11", plus Jack Henkel and Gene Stott, the other two regulars last year. In addition, the Axemen have Bud Kuykendall, who has shown tremendous improvement this year; Don Robinson; Leighton Tuttle, who has been out with an injury, and 6'7" Mike Moran, all of whom played a lot of ball on last year's squad. The Axemen have rung up 21 wins in 25 games with this outfit, but for some reason dropped to fifth in the latest AP poll. Admittedly, a few members of the team have shown a tendency toward rugged individualism once they get on the playing floor, but this should be minimized during the tournament.

**Dist. 7: CORVALLIS.** The Spartans have one of the finest players in the state in center Dave Gamba, who stands 6'6 1/2" and led the Big Six league in scoring this year. Gamba has led the Corvallis club to 21 wins in 24 games and a second place ranking in the Associated Press poll. He has scored well over 400 points and holds a 23 point per game average going into the tournament. To go with Gamba, Coach Tommy Holman has an all-veteran quartet of forwards Bob Langton, 6'2", and Dick Koford, 6'4", and guards Larry Edwards, 5'8", and Ron Taylor, 6'.

**Dist. 8: DALLAS.** The Dragons were the surprise team in last year's tournament, advancing into the semifinals undefeated, and finally winding up in sixth place. Returning from that squad are guard Herb Brandli who led the team in scoring both years, and Rex Domaschofsky, who led the team in rebounding and finished second in scoring. Rounding out this year's first five are two reserves from last year's squad, forward DeWayne Hoffman and guard Harold Holdorf, and Domaschofsky. All five range between 6" and 6'2".

**Dist. 9: BEAVERTON.** The Beavers are making their first trip to the state tournament since 1941, and they drew Eugene in the first round. Coach Bob Perry's squad is ranked 13th in the state by the AP after defeating perennial champion Hillsboro for the right to enter the state meet. Perry has a young squad, headed by guards Ben Indah and Charles Shea, center Dirk Davidson and forwards Chuck McClure and Bob Grant. All five saw some varsity action last year.

**Dist. 10: ASTORIA.** The Fighting Fishermen have only about a .500 average this year, but still managed to qualify for their annual trip to the state tournament. The team generally lacks height. The starting five consists of Mickey Utti and Frank Bechtolt at guards, Jon Englund at center and Bob Reiter and Graham at forwards. Of these five, only Utti, Bechtolt and Reiter played in the tournament last year.

**Dist. 11: SALEM.** The team that has played in more state tournaments and won more state titles than any other high school in Oregon is back again this year. The Vikings, winners of seven state titles in 31 years of state competition, have compiled a 16 and 9 record and are ranked seventh in the state. Three of this year's starters played in the tourney last year, guards Gordon Domogalla and Jim Knapp and forward Tom Pickens. Bob Wulf, 6'4" center, and forward Bill Burkland round out the first five. Coach Harold Hauk also has two reserve guards, Herb Triplett and Larry Springer, back from last year's tourney team.

**Dist. 12: UNDETERMINED.** Although the play-off game between Milwaukie and Molalla won't be played until Friday night, the powerful Mustangs from Milwaukie are heavily favored. Winners of 22 out of 23 games this year, the Mustangs have lost only to Gresham, and are ranked first in the state on nearly every poll in existence. Only three of the first 12 men are under 6' tall, and nine of those 12 played in the state tournament last year. The Mustangs are paced by center Elmer Bloedel, 6'4"; Forwards Bill Fredericks and Paul Shimer, 6'4" and 6'5", respectively, and guards Ted Miller, 6'1", and Larry Larsen, 6'. The other returning veterans are guards Dick Darby and Stan Byars, and forwards Bob Sturgis and Ron Pattee.

**Dist. 13: GRESHAM.** The Gophers finally ended the domination

of Central Catholic in District 13. Coach Bud Monnes' club piled up 20 wins against 3 losses to place sixth in statewide rankings, and hold the lone win over Milwaukie this year. Center Dave Gardner led the scoring on the well-balanced ball club. Guards Gary Roy and Graham, and forwards Jim Jenkins and Cliff Shelton round out the starting five.

**Dist. 14: CLATSKANIE.** The Tigers will be making their second trip to the state tournament this year, carrying with them a 14th place rating in the AP poll. Four men, guard Larry Hermo, forward Dick Lahti and centers Lew Harrison and Ben Sorenson return from the team that finished eighth in the state last year. Hermo, Harrison and forward John Glouse have all averaged better than 11 points per game this year.

**Dist. 15: ROOSEVELT.** The Roughriders closed their regular season with 19 wins and 3 losses and the Portland Interscholastic league championship. Nine men, including two all-city choices, return from the team that lost its first two games in the tourney last year. Dave Wanaka, 6'3" forward has averaged more than 11 points and 24 rebounds per game this year, and Bill Wiitala has served as the play-maker of the squad, in addition to holding more than his own in the scoring column. Charlie Geldaker, 6'4" center; Dennis Rodin, 6'1" forward, and Richard Curtis 5'10" guard, all veterans of state tourney play, round out the first five.

**Dist. 16: BENSON.** The Mechanics, led by all-city Johnny James, beat Cleveland, last year's city champ, for the right to enter the tournament, and administered the only defeat hung on Roosevelt in PIL play. James is joined on the starting unit by forwards George Bailey and Taylor, guard Jim Davis and 6'4" center Gordon Grenier. All but Taylor lettered last year. The Techmen will be making their first tourney trip in 18 years.

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