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SPORT NEWS

BATTLE ROYAL DUE SATURDAY

(By Scoop)

La Grande basketball fans will get their first opportunity to see the rejuvenated Tigers in action against an opponent that is admittedly stronger Saturday night when the Baker team swings into action in the local gym after a Friday night engagement with the Pendleton Buckaroos.

During the past few years a lot of color invariably bursts forth when Baker and La Grande range on the maple court. In actual games won Baker has the edge but in championships, the Tigers are just one ahead.

In the winter of 1922-1924 the Tigers and the Bulldogs were so evenly matched that but little separated them in ability. If anything, Baker had the more spectacular players. In two games prior to the Union tournament Baker won by a few points and then, one Saturday afternoon in February, the two met in what was to settle the championship of six counties. Baker took the lead with spectacular mid-floor throws and held it until the final quarter. Then the La Grande team, better trained and stouder at play, slowly forged ahead until the score stood 23 to 26 with five minutes to play. Then came the struggle. The Tigers tried to keep the ball and Baker tried time and again to break through for a score. After the most hectic five minutes the writer ever witnessed, the pistol exploded with the score unchanged—and La Grande went to Salem.

Baker Superior Last Year. Last year was a different story. With the championship team shot to pieces, La Grande was eliminated midway in the tournament and Baker had a clear record over the local five. La Grande's chief claim for distinction came through her ability to defeat Joseph here which

was the only loss sustained by the Wallawa county lads until Wallawa won in the finals.

Baker last year had a team that was superior to Wallawa and about equal with Joseph and but for the miserable outcome of the double elimination system, which proved itself a thorough failure at Union last year, would have played Joseph in the finals.

This year Baker has what is classed in the copper city as a "wonder five." The battles held Union almost scoreless and have not been beaten this season. But Baker faces two foes this week, either one of which has a chance—an outside chance but nevertheless one—to break the victorious string.

Baker Defense Strong. Baker and La Grande, while playing a different brand of basketball, both have strong defenses although the Baker defense is considered to be the strongest. The dividing line between the two teams, many believe, is that impracticable defense hinged around one dusky Hines, who passed Baker to victory on the gridiron last fall. It will be remembered. To be a shark on the maple court and if La Grande can get a few thrusts through him, then the home team has a chance to win. If he prevents the short shots that La Grande resorts to, Baker will probably whip Bennett's proteges with shots looped in from between mid-floor and the foul line.

Battle Royal Looms. Anyway, a battle royal looms, and La Grande will have two slight advantages — one, the playing of the game on her own floor, two, an easier game the night before. La Grande plays Elgin Friday night at home while Baker takes on Pendleton at Pendleton.

Present indications point to a crowd that will tax the capacity of the local gymnasium and, if a word to the wise is acceptable, do your ticket shopping early.

Just the same, every time we see a Christmas tie we envy this North Dakota man with whiskers 17 feet long.

Billy Evans Says:

Mickey Walker, welterweight champion, doesn't seem to be very well with the New York boxing commission.

Because of his refusal to box Dave Shande, Walker was on the suspended list in New York state for over a year. He finally got back into the good graces of the powers that be.

Signed to box for charity, recently, Walker balked on the figure named for his services. He suddenly developed an infatored tone and canceled his engagement.

A few weeks later, offered in the neighborhood of \$39,900 to box Tommy Milligan, the infatored tone got well. The sudden recovery of Walker offered the commission a chance for revenge.

About a week before the bout, the commission after looking over the injured toe decided it was not well enough to permit Walker to give his best. The bout was called off.

Speeded, Jack Kearns announced that he would take the proposed bout to Europe, hoping it might cause the commission to relent. Nothing doing.

When Kearns announced that Scotland has offered \$100,000 for the bout the commission knew Walker's manager was bluffing.

PINCH-HITTERS. While John McGraw may not miss the pitching of Jack Bentley, it is a certainty that his absence will be felt when it comes to the pinch-hitting business.

McGraw has always worked on the theory that a pennant winning ball club should have a capable right-hander and left-hander to be used in the pinch.

It might be added that he has been very successful in carrying out that line of resistance. While McGraw may have had to pick the spots for Bentley as a pitcher, due to the fact that Jack's style of hurling was effective only against a certain style of batting, there was no pinch-hitting situation where McGraw hesitated about using Bentley. Jack did his best work against right-handed pitching although he also took a mean cut at the southpaws.

Moose McCormick, Otis Crandall, Sammy Strang and Mike Dunlin are just a few other noted McGraw pinch-hitters that I recall.

RECORD CROWDS. Recently I received a query asking which sport other than racing has to its credit the largest crowd and how the first three ranked.

Unless I am mistaken football gets the call. At the 1925 clash between Ohio State and Illinois with Red Grange playing his final game, 85,000 people were in attendance.

He May Return



William H. McCarthy, one-time president of the Pacific Coast League, may do a "come-back." He was brushed from office two years ago after having been indicted to the presidency following the 1919 season. Rumor now has it that he may be named president of the Vernon club, which R. Stanley Dolan, shipping magnate, recently purchased.

While the Dempsey-Carpenter fight was said to have drawn 90,000, the meeting with Firpo at the Polo grounds with \$2,248 (right fans looking on) is reckoned as the biggest boxing card.

Babe Ruth and the New York Yankees playing the Giants in the 1923 world series, attracted 82,521 to one of the games at the Yankee stadium.

So it looks like football, boxing, then baseball for the win, show and place.

Since baseball is played continuously for six months while football and boxing only at stated intervals, a direct comparison is hardly fair to the national pastime.

SMITH WINS SECOND OPEN GOLF VICTORY IN TEXAS DALLAS, Tex. (AP)—MacDonald Smith of New York annexed his second open golf victory in Texas in two weeks by winning the Dallas open championship Monday afternoon with a 298. Also Espinosa of San Francisco came second with a 301 and Bobby Crickshank of Chicago third with a 303. Smith won the Texas open at San Antonio last week. Joe Kirkwood and Willie Hunter finished with 305 each for fourth place.

It's funny. In New York, you can't walk for the autos. Yet the mayor of the city is named Walker.

BILLY MEESKE TO TRY BUSCH

PENDLETON, Ore. (Special)—Despite the fact that August Busch of La Grande, formerly of Salt Lake City, Chicago and points east, is the nearest to a home boy in the main event of the American Legion wrestling card here Wednesday night, interest in the affair is evidenced by all local wrestling fans. Busch takes on Billy Meeske, light heavyweight wrestling champion of Australia. In the main event Meeske and from all indications it will be a real rough and tumble or as near that as the Police Gazette rules and referees. Hatton permit it to become.

Advance notice from Meeske indicate that while the husky Australian is one of the most scientific grapplers in the game he prefers to rely on strength and endurance to win his matches. Busch, a husky lad who weighs in at a full 175 pounds, isn't a rough wrestler but if the other man starts it, Busch declares he is able to finish it. Those who saw Busch grapple McCarroll here some six weeks ago realize that no light heavyweight can take any liberties with the boy who now calls La Grande his home and get away with it.

St. Louis, Mo.—A motor collision unprecedented in police records occurred when three private autos and three omnibuses crashed together without anyone being hurt.

There is about three inches of snow here.

Howard Ganset has been absent from school this week because of illness.

Arthur Berry was visiting and transacting business here last week.

Frank McKennon is visiting among the farmers here this week.

Waldo Richardson, of Leavenworth, Washington is here visiting relatives and friends.

Mr. and Mrs. G. M. Baker are the proud owners of a new sedan.

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LEMMI WINS AT OGDEN SHOW. SALMON, Idaho.—In competition with some of the greatest breeders of Shorthorn stock Lemmi county stockmen carried off 18 prizes in the fourth annual live stock show in the United States, that at Ogd.

Among the famous herds were those of Fenton & Sons, Elgin, Utah; Shi-A-Bar Farms, Grain Valley, Mo.; James Land, Fountain Green, Utah; R. D. Warnock, Loveland, Colo.; G. G. and F. A. MacMasters, Twin Falls, Idaho; Seebay & Sons, Mount Pleasant, Utah; H. C. Taylor, Hoadaki, Mo.; J. M. Pierce, Berger, Idaho.

C. A. Norton of the Salmon valley ranch brought home eight of the awards, two second, five third and one fourth, only two exhibitors faring better. Seebay & Son and Warnock; Walter S. Brown took six ribbons, two third, four fourth; H. L. Summersone second and two fourth; Art Barnett was an exhibitor but not a winner.

The Lemmi exhibitors in Ogdan shipped to the Denver show and market where it was augmented by two cuts of young stock from Tom Bryant, Lemhi, and four cuts from George E. Shoup, Salmon.

Sextuple Motor Crash.

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COVE GRANGE MEETING HELD

COVE. (Special)—Mr. Fannie Grange met at the hall January 16, with about 54 people in attendance. Several members of the Union Grange were present. A good program was given a feature of which was a talk and several pictures of the Yellowstone National park by H. J. Allen.

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WEAVER'S Tailors, Cleaners, Dyers and Pressers. PHONE MAIN 733 Depot Street

Advertisement for tires and insurance. Includes image of a tire and a man sitting at a desk. Text: 'Any Way You Figure', 'The Oregon Life Man is a trained man and a constant student. He can solve your life insurance problems for you in an efficient manner—without cost or obligation. Phone him!', 'Oregon Life', 'W. H. BOHNENKAMP COMPANY'.

Advertisement for Union Pacific. Includes image of a train and a person. Text: 'California The Playground of America', 'IF YOU have never been to California it should be the effort of your life to go.', 'Representatives of the Union Pacific', 'Will gladly furnish you illustrated booklets giving complete information about this land where the sun shines most of the time and where you can enjoy out-of-door life all the time.', 'Convenient train connections either via Portland or Salt Lake City at