

# Mountaineers Host Vikings To End Conference Play



**JUNIOR GUARD** — Mel Holmes, former La Grande prep, shows the form that he hopes will stop the Portland State Vikings this weekend as the Mountaineers wind up their OCC schedule against the Vikings in a two game series in the Coliseum. Earlier this season Mel set a new scoring record of 30 points and he will be firing for that basket again this weekend. (EOC Photo)

## EOC Needs Two Wins For Playoff Berth

By KEITH DALTON  
Observer Staff Writer

A tournament berth hangs in the balance this weekend as the Mountaineers of Eastern Oregon College take on the Portland State Vikings in a pair of games which loom as crucial.

The Mountaineers need both games from the Vikings to claim a berth in the NAIA playoffs in Portland. A team will be selected to represent the northwest in the tournament in Kansas City next month.

The Vikings are currently in third place in the Oregon Collegiate Conference with an 8-5 mark while the Mounties are resting in fourth place with a record of six victories and eight defeats.

This weekend should see a battle of height versus speed as the Vikings lead a tall-timber team on the floor against a speedy Mountaineer outfit. Portland State boasts a starting five which averages 6-4 with Bob Grant 6-3 and Ray Torgeson 6-4 at the forward positions, Don Bridges 6-2 and Don Powell 5-9 at guards and 6-5 Jack Bertell playing the center position.

**Bridges, Powell Top Scorers**  
Bridges and Powell have provided the scoring punch for the Vikings this season. In their last outing against the Mounties in Portland, Powell garnered 24 points and Bridges tossed in 23 to lead the Vikings to an 85-58 win over the Mounties. In the other game in that series, the Vikes defeated Eastern Oregon 57-40.

Couch Bob Quinn's Mountaineers, while not being tall, are exceptionally speedy and can run the ball well. This weekend the outcome of the series will depend on the ball handling of Ron Hunt, who has done a fine job all season in leading the Mountie floor game and on the hookshots of the "Bouncing Basque," Pasco Arriola. Arriola is currently in third place in the OCC scoring race with a 14.5 average.

Frank Chase and Bob Olinger will be seeing a lot of action in the Mounties' effort against the Vikings. Chase, a 6-3 Junior forward, is one of the smoothest ball players on the Eastern Oregon team. Bob Olinger has been the most

consistent player for the Mounties all season. Mel Holmes, who holds the coliseum scoring record with 30 points, will be in the lineup at forward to round out the team.

**Las. Gam: On Slate**  
Slated to see action this weekend also will be "Bear" McCadden, who had a good weekend against the Oregon Tech Owls two weeks ago. This will be the last weekend of basketball for the Mountaineers unless they manage to cop a spot in the elimination tournament in Portland. On the season, the Mounties are 8-18. A pair of wins this weekend would not only improve that record but would make the season a success.

In other league action Oregon Tech battles Oregon College in an attempt to gain a tie with idle Southern Oregon college. The Red Raiders have completed their schedule with a 10-6 mark while Tech rests in second with 8-6.

## TV Clash Sees Machen Face Hunter

NEW YORK (UPI) — Eddie Machen, the heavyweight division's "fireless cooker," meets aggressive Billy Hunter tonight in a contenders' TV fight at Madison Square Garden.

Machen, now campaigning out of Portland, Ore., is a knockout puncher and a good boxer; but his lack of fire—his defensive attitude—makes him a slight underdog tonight.

Rangy Hunter of Detroit, comparatively light hitter whose punch has been improving recently, is favored at 11-10 because of his aggressiveness.

Their 10-rounder, in which Machen makes his Garden debut, will be televised and broadcast nationally by NBC at 10 p.m. e.s.t.

It's a significant bout for 27-year-old Eddie, now ranked fifth among contenders by both the Ring Magazine and the National Boxing Association.

A victory would start his rise toward the top contender's rung he occupied back in 1958, when he unfortunately encountered Ingemar Johansson of Sweden and was knocked out in the first round. Johansson went on to become world champion.

## OSC Faces Top-ranked California

By United Press International  
Oregon State's basketball team meets Idaho tonight and mighty California Saturday night while Oregon has a single weekend game Saturday against Idaho.

Oregon State, hoping this weekend for its millionth fan at Gill Coliseum since it opened in 1949, has split in two games with the Vandals this season. The Beavers haven't yet played the Bears who sport a 19-1 record and are rated the top college team in the country.

Bill Weld, Oregon State regular guard, has a badly sprained ankle and likely will be replaced by sophomore Bob Jacobson of North Bend.

So far 590,285 fans have attended games in Gill Coliseum. This is 9,735 short of the million mark. OSC officials hope for about 4,000 for the Idaho game and 6,000 for the California game.

At Eugene, Coach Steve Belko says the Weiboots they can expect a tough test from Idaho Belko's alma mater. The Ducks need a win Saturday night to stay in the race for an NCAA at-large tournament berth.

## Knuckleball Ace Inks Oriole Pact

MIAMI (UPI) — Knuckleball ace Hoyt Wilhelm today signed his 1961 Baltimore Oriole contract for a reported \$22,500, a \$4,500 pay raise over last year.

## Tigers End League Play; Face Baker In Final Two

By NEIL ANDERSEN  
Observer Staff Writer

La Grande's tourney-bound Tigers take to the road this weekend for the final round of Intermountain League basketball play. The Tigers journey to Baker for a pair of games with the revived Bulldogs, winners of their last two games.

## Steelheading Chances Good On Weekend

Nerthast: Steelheading good in main John Day from Spray to Picture Gorge; north fork of John Day between Kimberly and Monument excellent; Columbia river poor; Umatilla river fair to good; upper Grande Ronde near Island City fair; steelheading should be good on lower Willowa and Minam rivers; Imnaha river excellent.

## MATCH WELTERWEIGHTS

NEW YORK (UPI) — Welterweights Guy Sumlin of Pritchard, Ala., and Antonio Marcella of Argentina have been matched for the co-feature 10-round bout at Madison Square Garden, March 4. The other 10-round co-feature, which will be televised and broadcast, pits middleweights Yama Bahama of Bimini Islands and Victor Zalazar of Argentina.

Friday night's contest will ring down the curtain on league play but the two teams will battle again Saturday in a non-counting fray. La Grande needs a win in the first game to preserve a possible title tie. Front-running Hermiston takes on Pendleton and should the Bulldogs slip La Grande can force a play-off for the right to represent the Intermountain League as the number one team.

Baker, winless in 11 league starts until last weekend upset Prineville Friday night 58-42 then made it two victories in a row with a 56-47 win over The Dalles.

## Tigers Defeat Baker Twice

Jack Rainey's quintet holds two victories over the Bulldogs already this season. The Tigers slapped Baker 51-36 in a league encounter and then turned the trick 59-36 in the knif'-x tussle.

La Grande's lineup should consist of the same bunch that has started most of the season's games. Buck Corey off two good contests last week will open at center. The backcourt tandem of Ray Westenskow and Steve Smith will get the call at tip-off time, along with Rod Chandler and Jimmy Hilliard.

## Bulldogs Long On Fight

Hilliard has been providing the Tigers with their scoring punch in the last two frays. Against The Dalles, Junior Jimmy netted 31 points, the highest individual total by a Tiger this season.

Baker has come a long way

since the first meeting of the two clubs as two victories will prove. The Bulldogs are short on height and experience but long on determination and fight. They could very well upset La Grande should the Tigers success cause them to let up in the last contest.

In addition to the Pendleton-Hermiston battle, The Dalles will meet Prineville and Bend squares off with Redmond.

The La Grande-Baker game Saturday night is the only one slated for league teams. Bend will meet Prineville Mar. 4 in a non-counting contest as the final, with the exception of tournament games, battle for Intermountain League quintets this year.

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## U.S. Faces Russia In Puck Finals; Top Canadians 2-1

SQUAW VALLEY (UPI)—Hockey's Yankee doodle dandies led the United States into what could be a banner day for Uncle Sam in the Winter Olympic Games today.

There were four gold medals up for grabs—and the U.S. had a good chance at two of them, the men's figure skating championship and the women's slalom.

But even if they win — David Jenkins, the slim figure skater from Colorado Springs, or one of the girls on the slalom team—their triumphs couldn't possibly dim the lustre of two team triumphs Thursday.

Those eager, spirited Yankees who beat the favored Canadians in hockey, 2-1, Thursday night to remain the only undefeated team in the hockey competition.

The Finland 40 kilometers (25 mile) cross country relay team which nosed out Norway in one of the closest races in Winter Olympic history, thanks to a 35-year-old lumberjack.

**Russian Captures Medal**  
There was individual glory—and gold, too, for another Russian speed skater.

Viktor Kosichkin captured the 5,000-meter speed skating event to give Russia its fifth speed skating medal of the games.

But the Yanks — the devilish puckmen — were the heroes of a screaming mob, of 8,000 which jammed Blyth Arena to cheer

them on. Uncle Sam's boys methodically took the Canadians apart in the first two periods, building up a 2-0 lead, and then sat back and played the finest defensive game of their lives in the last period.

When it was all over they mobbed their goalie, John McCarty of St. Paul, Minn. They picked him up, they jumped on him and then built a "log pile" in the middle of the ice with McCarty on the bottom as they "congratulated" him. He had made 29 saves during the game—and was under continual bombardment during the last period. But he survived—and is ready to take on all comers.

"We feel we have proved ourselves—to ourselves," he said after the game. "Now we feel that we can beat the hell out of anybody."

**To Meet Russians**  
They'll get that chance Saturday. They tangle with the Russian bear — defending champions and games favorites despite the fact they have been held to a draw by Sweden.

But the gold medal prospects for Uncle Sam were bright today.

Penny Pitou, Laconia, N. H., with second place finishes in both the downhill and giant slalom is a good bet to win the world's ladies' Alpine championship. All she has to do is finish 10th. And many believe that, barring tough luck, she will win the Olympic gold medal in the event.

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