

Wrestling program stresses participation

by Bill Schaefer

Because Roy Pittman and Mark Sprague shared the views that maybe winning wasn't everything after all, an extraordinarily successful wrestling program has blossomed at Peninsula Park.

The program for grade school and junior high school youth has been so successful, in fact, that three of its participants are world champions.

Why the program began six years ago — without any assurance of success — was explained by Pittman.

"Mark and I had this idea that it would be nice to have a program for kids who were kind of small, you know, too small for football, basketball and some of the other traditional sports," he said. "Well, Mark, who used to wrestle for Washington High School, has a son who's kind of small so we thought it might be a good idea to start a wrestling program in the smaller weight brackets."

Pittman and Sprague had trouble selling the idea to other parents.

"The first couple of years were the hardest," Pittman said. "It was hard to convince people of what we wanted to do. But Mark did a great selling job. We had only five wrestlers the first year and eight the next. Now we've got about forty kids participating."

Each participant pays an annual fee of \$20. They receive in return their AAU and U.S. Wrestling Federation cards, robes and singlets and year-round AAU and Federation insurance coverage.

Wrestlers compete in virtually

every weight class and are members of the Oregon Metro Wrestling Association, a group of teams from Scappoose, Tillamook, Hillsboro, Forest Grove, Mt. Hood, Scio, Lincoln City and the Columbia Boys Club (Portland).

"We wrestle among ourselves and every Saturday we have a dual or quadruple meet," Pittman said. "We score the winner of the match but we don't keep team scores. Winning and losing, as such, put too much pressure on the kids. They'll get enough of that when they're in high school."

Nevertheless, the Peninsula team has enjoyed remarkable success in national and international competition. Anthony Amato, eighty pounds, Kurt Hirota, ninety pounds, and young Mark Sprague, 100 pounds, all have won U.S. and world titles, Sprague having turned the trick four times. He and Hirota won last year in Mexico City while Amato claimed his championship the previous year in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

But winning is not the name of the game, insists the 34-year-old Pittman who also heads up women's conditioning, tennis and gymnastic programs at Peninsula.

"Participation is the key," he said. "We look at it as a kind of family sport where every kid, regardless of his size, can participate. There are no losers here. That's because we don't just look at wrestling. We teach a boy first how to lose, then how to win, then how to become a gentleman. That's what it's really all about."



Roy Pittman considers participation more important than winning.

Day care assistance available

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Neal selected

Daughter Mable B. Neal, Past Commandress of Mina Court #142, was asked by the Imperial Coordinator of NAACP to solicit members in our area for the organization.

On return from the annual Imperial Session in Mina Court #142, the Illustrious Commandress Daughter Lela Alexander appointed Daughter Mable B. Neal as Chairperson of Community Service.

Sports Talk

by Ron Sykes
Sports Editor



Crummy game of the week? Try this Saturday's contest between the hapless 0-3 Ducks from Eugene vs. the University of Wisconsin Badgers. Now if you're looking for good competitive football, then by all means tune this one in.

Oregon has lost all three of its games, losing to Colorado (24-7), Southern Cal (37-10) and Texas Christian (14-10). Wisconsin is (2-0), but their record is deceiving.

They've defeated Richmond (7-6) and Northwestern, which along with Illinois would have to rate as two of the crummiest major college teams in the land.

Oregon after looking decent against powerful Colorado and Southern Cal should beat Wisconsin... if they get their heads together

and use them to think and not to field punts as attempted in the TCU game.

The loss of wide receiver Kenny Page, who suffered a leg fracture a-f-first quarter hurt. It was after Page's loss that the Ducks experienced their that the Ducks experienced their problems fielding punts.

Sophomore fullback, Vince Williams, again showed his outstanding skills as he came up with his second 100-plus rushing performance of the season against TCU with 106 in 19 carries.

Although the Ducks should be favored I'm picking Wisconsin by six. Ken Page will be tough to replace.

Lyman Bostock, 27, and dead. It's a sad day in the sports world when

someone so highly thought of and appreciated as the young Angel outfielder passes.

Bostock was gunned down as he sat in a car driven by his uncle in Gary, Indiana.

Bostock, it seems, was in the wrong place at the wrong time. He was a complete stranger to his assailant.

Lyman Bostock was rapidly becoming one of the best hitters in Major League baseball.

It seems that Reggie Jackson is a late starter, or better yet perhaps an autumn player. Who can forget the slugging exhibition put on by Jackson in the World Series finale of last year. For those of you that were stranded on the Sahara, or on a years sabbatical to the deepest, darkest part of the jungle and didn't get the news, well all Reggie did was clobber three consecutive homers off three different pitchers, and then went on to be awarded the MVP for the Series. And now since Billy Martin's departure Jackson is doing what he's always been known to do... and that is hit that ball.

It's interesting to note that "The Reg" is hitting a whopping .316, in the past Martin days. The entire Yankee team has picked up since Billy's firing. And now have just about (six games remaining and leading by one) pulled off one of the most miraculous comebacks in the history of the game. As late as July the Yanks were sixteen games behind league leading Boston Red Sox. Go, Reggie, go!!!

And how about those Blazer rookies. The magnificent seven: Mychal Thompson, Clay Johnson, Willie Smith, Kim Anderson, Keith Herron, Ron Brewer and Clem Johnson.

All have impressed and performed exceptionally well under pressure. So what's going to happen when the vets return? With the roster set again for eleven that means that if none of the vets are beat out of their jobs, then only three rookies can be kept. Who goes?

Clem Johnson at 6'10" can surely be used. But so could the super quick Willie Smith out of Missouri. For sure to stick will be the two first round choices, Thompson and Brewer. Keith Herron at 6'6" is too good to go. He could play both guard and forward, has good speed and can shoot. Look for at least one vet to go. My choice... Larry Steele.

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