

# SPORTSLIGHTNER

by Al Lightner

Harp-strumming dept: Yesterday we blatted our brain out with words expressing the necessity for action NOW regarding the 1946 state basketball classic—it must be moved to larger quarters and named, the state fair grounds' horse show pavilion, seating capacity at least 5000. Also noted yesterday that Bossman Sprague had the same idea in his front page "It Seems to Me" column. . . . Today we have facts in figures concerning the 21st annual Washington state tourney, finished Saturday night in mammoth U of Washington pavilion, Seattle.



AL SIMPSON

For the entire Washington series 40,211 spectators set an all-time high attendance mark. The previous record was 16,000—yes, 16,000 in Seattle. Last week's Willamette attendance could not have been more than 16,000 since you must realize WU capacity is 3000 even after using the shoe-horn which was much in evidence all last week. The all-time high at Willamette was 14,000, notched during the 1944 classic. It may have reached the 16,000 figure last week. Had their been room, it might have easily hit double that total, or 32,000.

**Postwar Portland Pavilion Inviting**  
As it stands now, only Portland has a chance of wresting the tourney from Salem. But Portland has no pavilion in which to house it. That is, none right now. One is planned for the post-war building boom. Therefore, if Salem is to keep the tourney she should be doing something now—not after the war.

As mentioned, the fair grounds pavilion is the solution. For \$10,000, which can be made up easily enough with the very first tournament, portable flooring, goals, heating equipment and dressing rooms could be installed. The building could be rented from the fair grounds association not only for the tournaments but for other major attractions as well. Big name dance orchestras, for instance.

The plan is there and work upon it should start at once. We don't know who would be required to put up the \$10,000, if it would cost that much, but inasmuch as Willamette U is the high poobah of the classics she and her guiding hands should know. The ten-thousand would be repaid many-fold in time.

**No One Really at Fault for Tourney Mess**  
No one knows better than Willamette that the tourney has grown too big for WU facilities. The school has known that the past five years, we're told. And no one should escape any more the ridicule which goes with such an overcrowded mess as was last week's than Willamette officials. After all, they had only so much room. And it's a problem, senior grade, to try parking 4000 where only 3000 can squeeze in. Many toes were stepped on both inside and outside the gym during the 26th classic, and no one is really at fault.

So it's up to Salem to do something, and now, if she wants to keep her hoop baby alive and kicking—at home.

**Simpson Seeking Job, Eyes Salem High**  
This might sound a bit whacky, but Medford's Al Simpson, Oregon's "Coach of 1944" after winning two straight prep titles is looking for a job. No, he hasn't been fired for not making it three in a row—merely figures now's the time for young and successful coaches to grab themselves off steady jobs.

Being a veteran of world war II, likeable Alvin is only in a pinch-hitting role at Medford. The Tornado football job awaits the return of Bill Bowman, now in the service, and the basketball chores go to Russ Atchison when he quits the khaki. Consequently, when they return Simpson is out. Rather than wait that long, the pinch-hitter is now on the prowl for a permanent spot. And while in town last week, the gent riding the state's prep coaching crest asked many questions regarding the Salem high situation. He made no bones about it—he'd like very much to sign on at the Vik Villa. Along with others, Simpson pegs Salem as THE coming city in state prep athletics. He'd like to be dealt in.

Also on the Simpson checkup list is Astoria. "I said Bill Bowers is to take over principalship in one of the Astoria junior highs, leaving the basketball coaching job open. But like Medford and Salem and other prep schools in the state, Astoria has her head coaches in the service and a tenure sign on their jobs until they return. Lt. Harold Hauk says he's definitely coming back to SHS after the war and both Lt. Wally Palmberg and Lt. Norville May are the on-leave basketball and football skippers at Astoria.

**What's Cookin'? Could Be Something**  
No doubt Simpson will come up with something, and something good. His record warrants it. But it is an oddity to have a mentor of his current success out looking for a job, or? Incidentally, another well-known coach on the prowl for a job and seen asking questions about the town last week was Marble Cook, late of Klamath Fall's Pelicans.

There's something in the air, all right.  
Bob Lucas, Astorian Budget attache, basketball pressurist and coach hunter, was another tourney sideline last week and openly admitted he was "looking for a coach to sign on at Astoria—even if we have to pay him \$2750 a year." Lucas doesn't care who is as long as he can PRODUCE. "I'm authorized to sign up a coach right now," he furthered. "Astoria is fed up with losing basketball teams—their going to start back to winning, and right next season."

More about Simpson—he's sold himself as a coach so much to venerable Ed Kirtley, for years widely known and liked as assistant coach and physical education director at Medford, that Kirtley admitted he'd "string along with Simpson wherever he goes—if the price is right." Otherwise he'll stay right at Medford where he has "a good deal," Kirtley says Simpson "has more on the ball than any coach I've ever worked under."

## BOWLING SCORES

Table with bowling scores for various leagues including Papermakers, Interstate Tractor, Trade Council AFL, and others. Columns list names and scores.

# Angels Shorn of Many '44 Stars, But Still Picked as Team to Beat in Coming Campaign

By BILL BECKER  
LOS ANGELES, Mar. 20—(P)—Still the team to beat.  
That's the 1945 tag hung by most observers on the Los Angeles Angels, last year's Pacific coast league pennant winners. Despite manpower drains, income has almost equalled out-go and the defending champs are pretty well set in most departments. To the parent Chicago Cubs, the Angels has sent pitchers Frim and Comellas and outfielders Sauer, Garriott and Ostrowski,

all prominent in the 1944 PCL campaign success.  
But they've added Lou Novikoff, former coast fence buster demoted by the Cubs, and a half dozen players with promising class A minor league records. Then, too, there's always the possibility the Cubs may return one or more of the '44 stars.  
Manager Bill Sweeney could use another good pitcher and more reserves, but he should get good service from a lineup that includes Novikoff, Dave Douglas from New Orleans, and Jim Tyack from Toronto in the outfield; first baseman Mel Hicks from Nashville, Ray Viers, Atlanta second sacker; and holdovers Rip Russell and Guy Miller at third and short. Novikoff, who reported for training 25 pounds overweight, may not break many fences at first, but he figures to be the club's attack leader. Russell, Tyack and Hicks all bettered .310 last season.  
Hicks will open at first in

place of Reggie Otero, 1944 regular who is holding out in Cuba; Viers and Miller make a slick double play team. Free agent Frank Crachololo from Jersey City is utility infielder. Reserve outfielders include Manny Salierra, .205, recalled from Nashville, and reliable Johnny Moore, .325, the No. 1 pinchhitter.  
Behind the plate, Roy Easterwood, from the Cubs and Milwaukee, and holdover Bill Sarnl, 17-year-old youngster, will carry the brunt. Starting pitchers will be Don Osborn, who won 15 for the Angels last year; Charley Cueller and Southpaw Boyd Tepler from Nashville; and Jodie Phipps, 1843 hurler last season with arm trouble last season.  
Sweeney believes he has an outstanding mound prospect in 16-year-old Richie Colombo, American Legion lad from Boston. A big right-hander, the kid is "sneaky fast." He may draw starting assignments. The staff also includes Paul Lammers, former Notre Dame player; Warren Merkle from San Diego; Hank Gior, Portsmouth; Joe Slotter, Hagerstown; and John Rager, holdover. The last two are southpaws.  
The Angels don't stack us as strong as last year, when they lost the post-season play-offs to San Francisco, but they do have a good starting lineup and full pitching complement.  
Now, sighs Sweeney, casting eyes Chicago-ward, if we only get somebody back!

## Riot Features Ross-Wagner Mat Session

### Blood-Dripping Tony Loses to Georgie

"It could happen only at the armory on Tuesday nights," was never more true than last night. "It" happened in the form of a young riot during a totally wild tangle during Villager Tough Tony Ross and Gorgeous Georgie Wagner, the top brawlers on Matchmaker Elton Owen's weekly crunch party. No, nobody got killed, but (1) Wagner is probably feeling quite elated over being alive today, (2) Ross is wounded deeply over one eye which bled profusely after Wagner knocked him on it last night, and (3) some 800 customers are sure they've seen just about everything—plus a good reason for Georgie to be on guard, good guard, if ever he tries Anthony Q. again.

The match wasn't a tame affair from the very beginning when it up and strolled completely away from Referee Jack Dymar, a newcomer debuting in a troyout at the job. Incidentally, it's probably his fins here also. Anyway, Wagner finally stormed and stomped Tony for the first fall by using every illegal trick in the book. Not content with the bulge, the Bathrobe Kid again clouted already fallen and bloodied Ross and mayhem broke loose.

Eight or 10 angered clients poured into the ring, one actually brandishing a knife, and for 60 seconds it was a maze of flying fists and unadvertised grappling. Ushers, rasslers and gendarmes joined the party and wot a free for all it was! Then, suddenly Ross was back, blood and all, and the Wagner-Ross scuffle was on again. But not for long, as the referee and a handful of fans bodily kept badly wounded Anthony from continuing.

Ross was hustled to the dressing rooms and shortly afterward Wagner called on anybody to stop him from leaving the ring. Plenty were ready but no one did. A doctor refused to allow Tony to continue.  
It didn't last long, but the blow-up was just about as rip-snorting as you'd like. Had it not been for quick-thinking gents somebody would have been hurt badly—namely, Gorgeous Georgie Wagner.

In the prelims, both action-packed themselves but causing no riots, Tex Hager won over Billy McEwin when the latter fouled himself out with choke holds in the third heat, and Gust Johnson took the only fall in 30 minutes over Jack Kiser with his pet "surf-board hold." That is, the only fall seen by the ref. Kiser had one but the official wasn't looking.

## 'Lippy' at 2b? Rickey Laughs

BEAR MOUNTAIN, N.Y., March 20—(P)—Even though he watched Leo Durocher practice around second base in today's outdoor workout at the Brooklyn Dodgers camp, President Branch Rickey didn't hesitate to announce he would give the manager a bonus of \$1000 if he played that position in the first 15 games of the season.  
"And I don't think I'll ever have to pay him the money," Rickey added. "I have him tagged as an active ball player in March and an inactive player in April."  
"I'll fool him," Durocher declared.

## Feller New Coach Great Lakes Nine

GREAT LAKES, Ill., March 20—(P)—Chief Specialist Bob Feller, former Cleveland Indians pitcher, will have charge of the Great Lakes naval training center's baseball team this season, Lt. Cdr. Rolfe Williams, athletic officer, announced today.  
Feller, just returned from sea duty in the Pacific, replaces Lt. Cdr. Mickey Cochran, now in the southwest Pacific. Cochran coached the 1942-44 baseball teams at Great Lakes.

## Peters Enroute To Turner Tiff

SAN FRANCISCO, March 20—(P)—Paulie Peters, outstanding local middleweight, left Monday for Portland where he will fight Leo (the Lion) Turner in a ten-rounder next Friday night. Peters' impressive record includes four successive wins in Hollywood recently, three by knockouts.

# STATESMAN SPORTS

By Al Lightner, Sports Editor



BRAVES POW-WOW: John Quinn, new prexy of the Boston Braves (right), listens in on conversation between Whitey Wietelman, shortstop (left), and Manager Bob Coleman (center) during a spring training workout at Washington. (AP Wirephoto).

## Bishop Hoops 62 at Denver

DENVER, March 20—(P)—In an amazing display of marksmanship, Gale Bishop, Fort Lewis, Wash., forward, scored 62 points in a national AAU tournament basketball game here tonight and broke his own record of 60 points set in a game in the 1943 tourney.  
Bishop's shooting exhibition came in an 87-21 shellacking of the Hokie, Kans., chamber of commerce in the fourth and final game of the evening. Playing all but the final two minutes, Bishop, the nation's leading scorer this season, hit 13 out of 19 attempts in the first half, canned 15 more fielders in 25 tries in the second period, and dropped in six free throws.

## Jacobs Eyes Record Gate

NEW YORK, Mar. 20—(P)—Promoter Mike Jacobs predicted today a gate of \$7,000,000 for the anticipated postwar return bout between Heavyweight Champion Joe Louis and Challenger Billy Conn.  
Jacobs, the country's leading fistic promoter who recently observed his 65th birthday, estimated receipts from persons actually seeing the scrap at \$2,000,000 (ringside seats are expected to be priced at \$100) with the remaining \$5,000,000 coming from television rights.  
The existing record gate is the \$2,658,660 contributed by the 104,943 fans who saw the second Gene Tunney-Jack Dempsey fight at Chicago in September, 1927.

## Klepper Sees Bevo Success

PORTLAND, March 20—(P)—William H. Klepper, general manager of the Portland Beavers, predicted today the team would make as good a showing this year as last, when it rated second in the Pacific Coast baseball league.  
"I look for the pitching staff to go along at a good clip despite the absence of Marino Pieretti," he said, just back from the spring training camp at San Jose. Klepper reported "a little more punch" in batting.  
While rain has prevented the Beavers from practicing enough to reach top form, that holds true in the other camps also, he said.

## Duckpin Scores

Table with duckpin bowling scores for Ladies League, Hat & Everson, and Capital Lbr. & Fuel.

## Basketball Scores

(AAU Tourney, Denver)  
Fort Lewis, Wash., 67, Hokie, Kan. C of C 21.  
Camp Robinson, Ark. 62, San Diego Dons 40.  
Fort Warren, Wyo. 76, Bushnell Hospital, Utah 44.  
20th Century, Hollywood 74, Mitchell-Pontiac, Sterling, Colo. 21.

## Baseball, Track Spring? Viks Seeking Proof

Spring sports—track and baseball—are the big buzz around Salem high school these days, but both have ventured no further than the buzz stage. Yesterday was the official opening day of spring (so the calendar says), but to the Villa men it was just another day indoors. Neither Cinder Coach Tommy Drynan or Baseball Boss Gurnee Fleisher dare send a spring sportster to adjoining Olinger lake for fear of losing same via drowning.  
And until the weather clears and the practice fields dry out, any workouts planned by the SHSers will be limited to the Villa gymnasium. Possessing this spring what looks on paper like a topnotch squad, Drynan has been forced to conduct practically all cinder workouts indoors since he issued practice call three weeks ago.  
Fleisher hasn't invited prospective baseballers to sign up yet, but will some time this week. Then it's merely a matter of weather cooperation before the first Viking baseball team in three years starts its spring training. Outside two or three positions, prospects for a winning ball club also loom for SHS, thanks to the city's Junior league program held last summer.

## Cards Looking For Dry Land

CAIRO, Ill., March 20—(P)—The St. Louis Cardinals have decided to move to a dry land training site "somewhere in Ohio" if Manager Billy Southworth can find a suitable spot.  
President Sam Breadon announced today that Southworth is looking for a place and that the squad will leave here if satisfactory arrangements can be made. The world champions, who opened training yesterday, found the outfield of their park under four feet of water with prospects it would not drain within the training period.

## Leafs Upset Montreal

MONTREAL, March 20—(P)—Scoring a goal in the last period of the Toronto Maple Leafs upset the championship Montreal Canadiens, 1 to 0, tonight in the first game of their semi-final series in the Stanley cup hockey playoffs.

## Wings Lose to Bruins

DETROIT, March 20—(P)—Stunning the Detroit Red Wings with three goals in the first period, Boston's fourth-place Bruins won 4-3 before 10,283 fans here tonight in the opener of the first round of the Stanley cup hockey series.

## Junior Fives Play Monday

Both having drawn byes in the first round, which is being run off this week, the Parrish-Leslie teams entered in the Portland Golden Ball hoop meet will not play their initial games until next Monday evening. The Cubs, coached by Bob Metzger and entered in the 13-14 year old division, have not been informed as to who their opposition will be, but their first game will be played on the Peninsula park court at 7:30 Monday.  
At the same hour, the Intermediate, mentored by Bob Keuscher will tangle with the winner of tonight's fray between Donahue's Comets and the Devil Demos.  
Hinting that the competition will be pretty rough for the Salem entries is the fact that there are 40 entries in the Cub division and 46 teams in the intermediate bracket. Teams are entered from Eugene, Oregon City, Forest Grove, Vancouver, Milwaukie, Gresham, and several other towns around Portland. Also listed are most of the junior varsity squads from the eight Rose City high schools.  
Metzger hasn't decided upon a starting lineup as yet and is using Carlos Houck, Jack Miller, Tom Paulus, Ralph Morgali, Paul Neiswander, Larry Kleinsmith, and Ted Corvill alternately at the five spots. Keuscher has nominated Bob F. Funk, Dave Chamberlain, Hugh Bellinger and Winston Cobb as probable starters, with Ray Turner, Bill Fasnacht and Lowell Spagle scrapping for the center post.

## Leslie Casaba Champs Named

Basketball champions at Leslie junior high are the Jackals in the seventh grade, the Lizzards in the eighth, and the Bulldozers in the ninth. Final playoff games were staged Tuesday noon culminating ten weeks of play that saw 33 teams swapping baskets in the intramural hoop-fest.  
The Jackals, paced by big Jim Moore with 12 points, trimmed the Whales in the seventh grade finals, 18 to 4. The Lizzards downed the Frogs 28 to 15 and the Elephants 13 to 11 to annex their title, and the Bulldozers bested the Giraffes 14 to 10 to become ninth grade champs. Next week the three winners will vie for the school title and will also tangle with the Parrish grade winners.

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## Senior Loop Cuts Mileage In Half for 1945 Season

NEW YORK, March 20—(P)—A 154-game schedule for 1945 that will involve approximately 3,500,000 fewer passenger miles than a similar program in 1941 was announced today by the National League. Ford Frick, president of the National Loop, says his athletes traveled 6,485,395 passenger miles during the campaign that closed a few months before Pearl Harbor. This year he estimates they will occupy railroad seats for not more than 3,000,000. Neither year includes world series mileage.

## Snead, Nelson Still Even-Up

CHARLOTTE, NC, March 20—(P)—Sammy Snead and Byron Nelson, the two top men in golf, wound up all square today in a see-saw 18-hole playoff for first place in the \$10,000 Charlotte open golf tournament. They fired three under par rounds and will play off tomorrow at 10:30 a.m. (EWT).  
For the second straight day Snead staggered home for a dead-lock after having the top prize of \$2,000 in war bonds in his grasp, along with a couple of tournament winning records. Each finished the regulation 72 holes in 272, 16 under par.

## Wrestling Meet Set for Canby

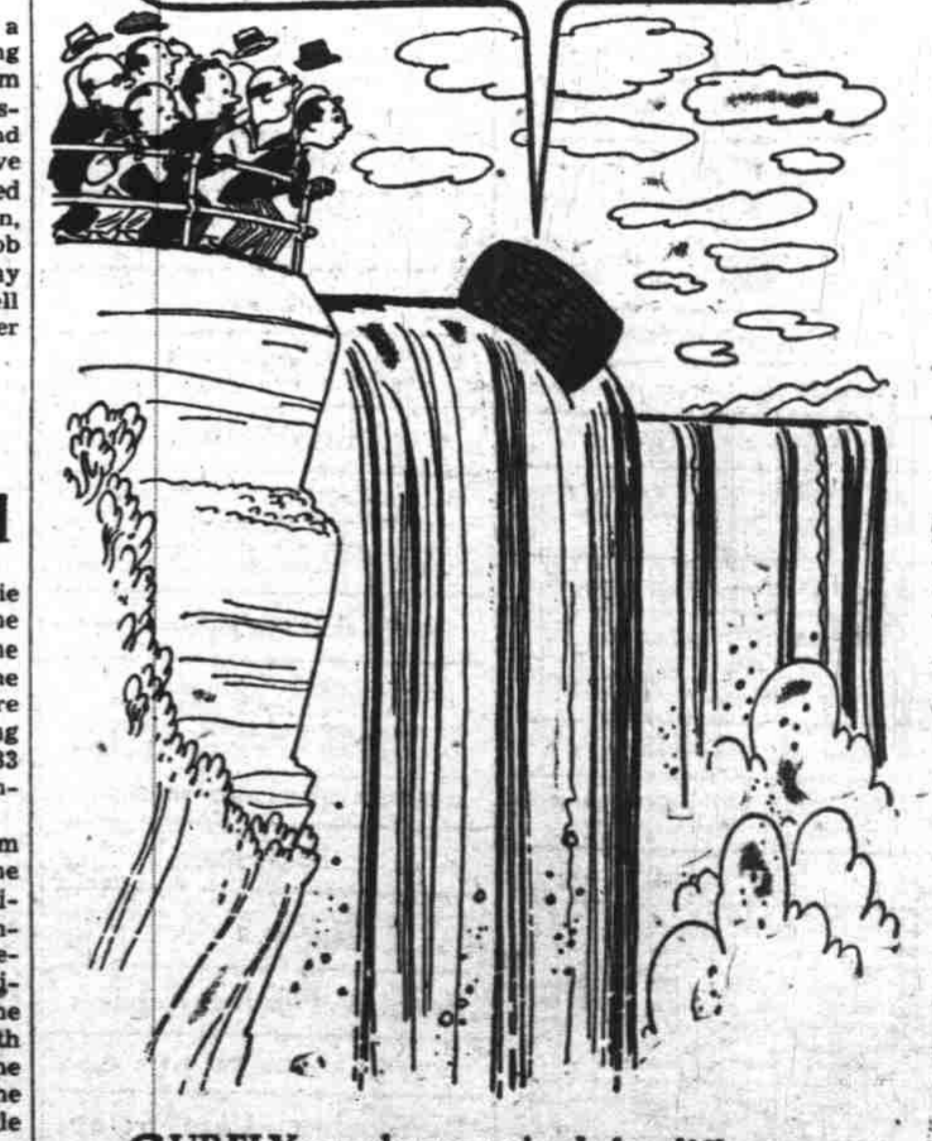
CANBY, March 20—(P)—Coaches C. A. Blod, Canby, and George Gillis, Sandy, will direct a state prep wrestling meet here Friday in which each high school may enter two contestants.  
Grapplers will come under 12 weight divisions and will be eliminated after two decisions or one fall.

## Medwick on Sick List

LAKEWOOD, NJ, March 20—(P)—Candidates for the New York Giant team sweated four hours in 85 degree temperature today. President Horace Stoneham said Outfielder Joe Medwick, suffering from dislocation of his sacroiliac, would be sent to New York for medical attention if he failed to show improvement tomorrow.

All-Wool SPORT COATS for Spring S & N Clothiers 456 State - Salem

## THIS REMINDS ME—"It's the Water"



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