

Capitol Race Opens Friday

Pennant Race Looms Close

Both Academy Quints In Road Commencers

The six-team Capitol League basketball romp gets under way Friday night with all six members going postward for the eight o'clock commencers, Salem Academy will be at Stayton, Sacred Heart at Central and Philomath at Cascade in the openers.

What with Stayton, Cascade, Sacred Heart and Central all boasting reputable teams, prospects for a sizzling title scramble are evident. Also, Salem Academy could bounce into the championship picture if the Crusaders continue to improve as they did in December.

All but two of the teams go into the openers with a pre-league record of more wins than defeats. Only John Newman's Philomath's have failed to win at least as many as they've lost to date.

Warren Schue's Central Hi Panthers have a 4-4 record, with victories over such teams as Dayton, Sheridan and Forest Grove included.

Leo Grosjeques' Sacred Heart Cardinals have posted five wins against three losses, the victories including Woodburn, Mt. Angel and Silverton of the Willamette Valley League.

The Crusaders, mentored by Bob Funk, have won three and lost three. Waldport and Taft are among their victims.

Cascade High's Cougars own a 5-3 mark, and Lyle King's crew has defeated Silverton, Sheridan, Jefferson and North Marion.

The Stayton Eagles sport a snappy 6-3 record, with two of the losses having occurred in the Linfield Old Grads Tournament in December. The Eagles include among their victims Silverton, Dallas, Sheridan and Mill City, the latter the class of the Marion County B League to date.

Halbrook Top Beaver Scorer

OREGON STATE COLLEGE (Special)—Maintaining a 23.7 average per game, Wade (Sweden) Halbrook, the 7-3 center, leads Oregon State basketball scoring to date with 237 points in 10 games. The young giant is far ahead of Tony Vlastelica in second place, who has scored 87 points for a 9.7 average.

The Beavers are now busily preparing for their conference openers here Friday and Saturday nights with Idaho.

For their first 10 games, seven of which have been wins for OSC, the Beavers have averaged 69.2 points, to 60.9 for the opposition. The scoring:

Player	fga	fg	pct.	ft	ft	tp	ave.
Halbrook	180	81	45.0	75	32	237	23.7
Vlastelica	120	35	29.2	11	20	87	8.7
Whiteman	86	23	26.7	16	22	82	8.2
Toole	67	24	35.8	27	33	75	7.5
Jarboe	51	22	43.1	22	29	64	6.4
Romanoff	57	22	38.6	8	24	52	5.2
Robins	77	18	23.4	13	19	49	4.9
Paulus	13	3	23.1	8	20	14	1.4
Halligan	12	2	16.7	7	8	11	1.1
Dean	15	3	20.0	4	10	1.3	1.3
Crimmins	12	3	25.0	1	3	7	0.7
Fundingsland	8	2	25.0	0	4	4	0.4

Hogan Named Top Athlete

(Continued from preceding page)

Hogan lay near death after complications set in, but he recovered after a delicate two-hour abdominal operation. By mid-summer he was back hobbling around the links on crutches. They said he'd never reach his tournament form again.

But Ben of the iron nerves and persistent practice amazed the golf world by winning the U. S. Open in 1950 at Merion, Pa. He repeated at Birmingham, Mich., in 1951, and did it again at Oakmont last summer.

Then he was off to Carnoustie, Scotland, to tackle his first British Open. Hogan had been taunted by critics, who said "you can't play that other kind of golf"—the Scottish kind in the strong sea winds, cold and rain.

Hogan trailed two Britons by two strokes going into the final day, chilled and near exhaustion from influenza. But the Hogan spirit brought him his greatest golfing triumph. He toured Carnoustie's 7,200-yard terror on his final round in 68, breaking the competitive course record. His superb game placed him alongside Bobby Jones at the peak of all goldfom.

His reward was \$1,400 and world-wide showers of praise. He played in only six major tournaments during 1953—won five, plus \$17,800.

"A great performance, great," said Bobby Jones in New York.

ZARILLA RELEASED

BOSTON — Veteran outfielder Al Zarilla Wednesday was given his outright release by the Boston Red Sox.

Zarilla, 33, was used mainly as a pinch hitter last season, compiling a .194 average while appearing in 57 games.

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College Comments . .

By TOM YATES

Tomorrow night's game between the Willamette Bearcats and the Whitman Missionaries in the 'Cat gym will be one of three to usher in the Northwest Conference 1954 basketball derby. Pacific and Lewis and Clark will have a home and home pair Friday and Saturday and College of Idaho will debut at Linfield. Both the Wildcats and Bearcats will be hosting the same opponents again on Saturday, and will switch foes for Monday night mixes.

With four of last year's All-Star quintet back in action the conference race looms as a high quality free-for-all with very little chance for a runaway by any one team. The returning last honor men are equally split up between four schools, with only Willamette and Linfield being minus a Star holdover. The Bearcat's Dick Mafe is the lone missing topnotcher from the '53 mythical five, and they may well wish they had the rubber-legged forward before this season's over.

Tops in talent are the Missionaries, who will be starting four lettermen along with All-Conference Dick Fain. Sharp shooting Don Robinson will provide the Whits with enough points in any game to make them a threat. Robinson didn't join the team until the spring semester last year, and they won 9 of their last 12 games. The Walla Wallans had an overall record of 13 and 12.

This corner is forced to pick Coach Bob Burgess' Missionaries as number one title contenders for '54. The Fain-Robinson combine has already dumped Gonzaga (including Jerry Vermillion). This weekend's play should tell the story pretty well, for the Whits have had their troubles getting points in the State Street gym in recent years. So if they can handle the always rugged John Lewis coached 'Cats they'll be on their way.

Willamette potentially is a contender, and as long as Lewis is calling the shots they can be dangerous. But they've appeared too slow in recent games to be tabbed championship calibre. In attempting to slow down opponents offensive thrusts the 'Cats have frequently employed a fine zone defense. But it's been the Methodist's own inability to drive the ball inside the enemy defenses that has cost them ball games.

The Linfield-C of I Coyote tussles should once more prove the Idahoan's R. C. Owens is the best in the loop when it comes to stuffing the ball through the hoop. Linfield looks to be the weakest link in the conference, depending on Dave Sanford for most of its scoring punch. The Coyotes ought to be about on par with Willamette, Lewis and Clark, and Pacific.

Pacific, with Norm Hubert, and the L & C Pioneers, with Ken Servas, are the remaining two teams with returning Star hoopers. Lewis and Clark has had trouble getting started this season, and while the defending champs won't give up the top spot without a fight, the company is mighty rough this year. The Badgers draw our vote as the most likely darkhorse in the race. The defeat handed Portland U. by Coach Harvey Roloff's hustlers should be an alarm in ghint to his brother coaches to watch out for the Forest Grove team. Pacific and Willamette tied for second last season, one game behind the Pioneers.

Gonzaga Ace's Average Tops In Northwest; OSC Giant 2nd

SEATTLE — Jerry Vermillion of Gonzaga is the deadeye of the Northwest's collegiate basketball players as the 1954 chase begins. The Bulldog star was averaging 24.7 points per tussle after eight

Basket Slate Heavy Friday

(Con'd from preceding page.)

Roosevelt High, a team the Vikes nosed out by four points here at the start of the season. Lebanon High is at Sweet Home Friday night, a district game for both teams.

And although not league enounters, other Friday nighters will include Falls City at Eddyville, Perrydale at Colton and Valsezt at Siletz.

The collegiates are to be a busy lot Friday and Saturday nights also. The Northwest Conference starts play with Whitman playing Willamette here College of Idaho at Linfield and Pacific University at Lewis & Clark, all two-game series. The OCE Wolves go to Ashland for Friday, Saturday nighters with Southern Oregon. Idaho and Oregon State collide at Corvallis both nights in what could be very crucial Coast Conference clashes for both, and Washington opens its league season at Pullman in a weekend pair with Washington State.

German Licked By Bucceroni

MILWAUKEE — Philadelphia's Dan Bucceroni, giving almost 28 pounds, pummeled effectively at short range for a unanimous 10-round heavyweight decision over Germany's Hein Ten Hoff Tuesday night.

Philadelphia Dan, scoring his 46th victory against only three defeats, was shooting for a possible February date against champion Rocky Marciano in Miami.

Beavers Release Willie Ramsdell

PORTLAND, Ore. — The Portland Pacific Coast League baseball club Wednesday, announced the release of Willard Ramsdell, veteran knuckleballer who once pitched for Brooklyn and Cincinnati in the National League.

Portland signed Ramsdell last season after his release by Los Angeles. He pitched only a few innings for Portland.

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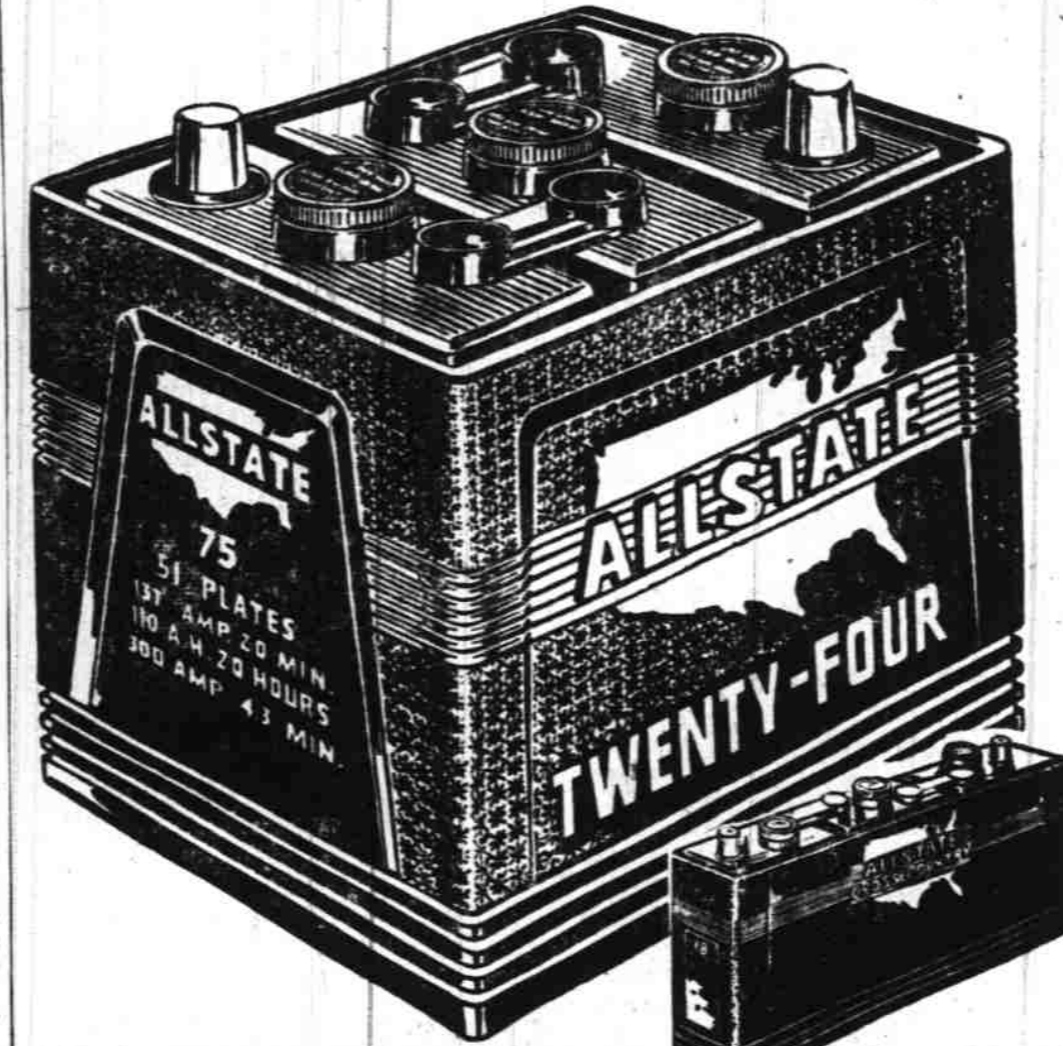
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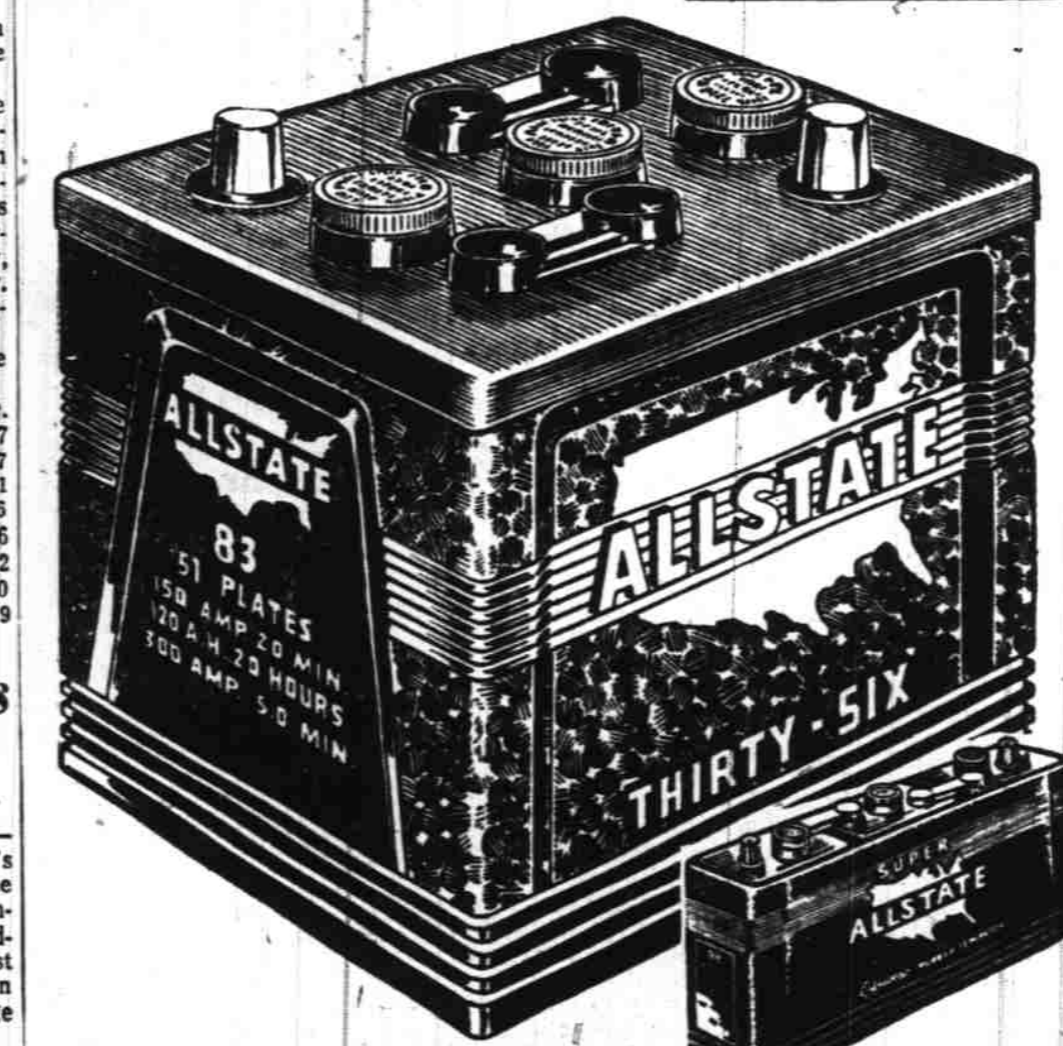
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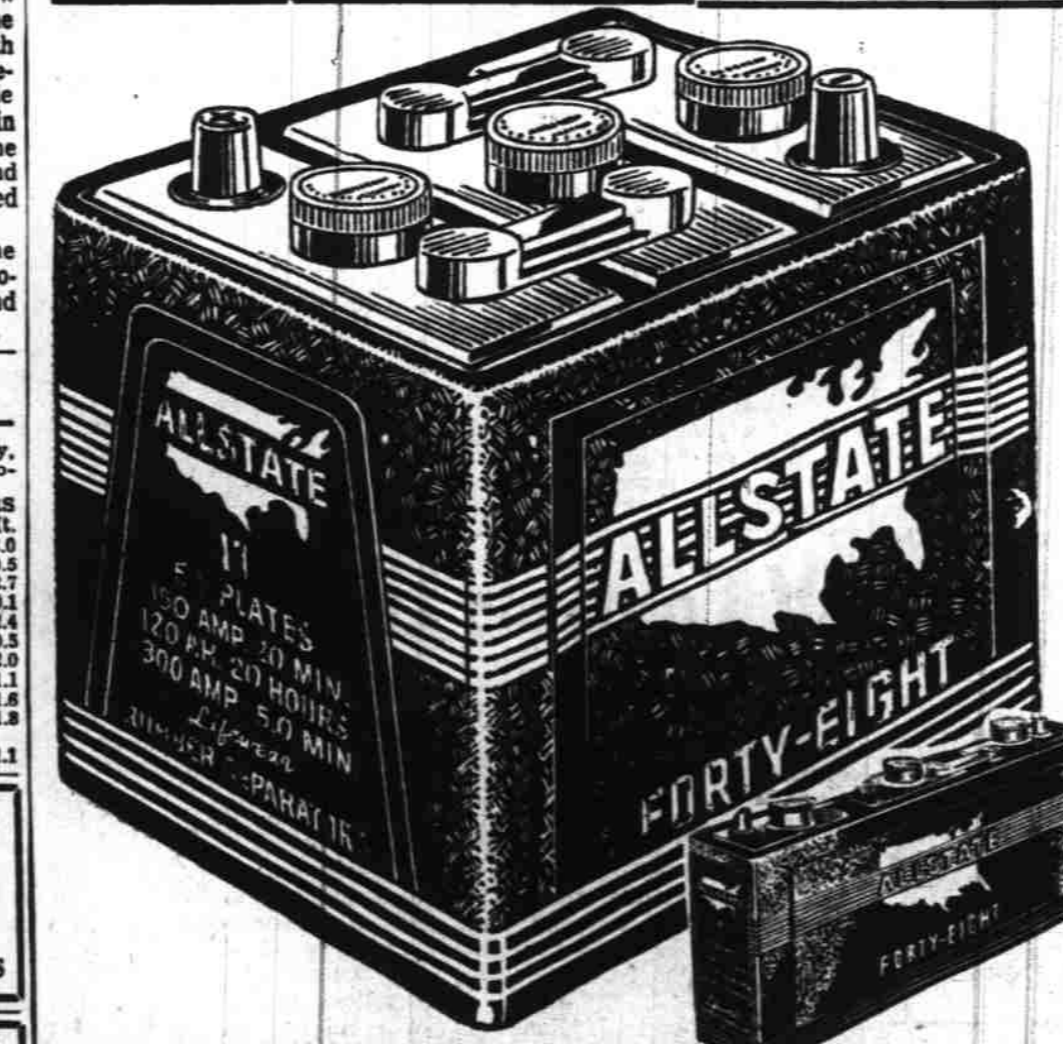
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