

Softball Slants

By Jim Dimit

Salem City
Softball Director

Here we go again. Rumor has it that a goodly number of Salem lads, once their teams are eliminated from the city playoffs are headed, by the way of Mill City and the Kelly Lumber green, for the intra-district play-offs. Well, don't believe it. It's just a rumor—a case of the boys wishfully wanting another chance at the top team. Biggest "rhubarb" we've seen this season took place in the recent YMCA-Burkland mix. With Norv Hilficker, Y chucker, all set to deliver the ball to the plate, some prankster along the third base line hollered, "Hold it," which of course, Norv obligingly did. Net result—Glenn Blanton scored from third on the balk and Jack Kiekel, Y manager, raced hither and yon trying to get some one, other than his own team-mates, to agree with him that the umpire was wrong. Brownie Valdez, Kay infielder, playing like a man asleep in the infield the other night, suddenly came to life in his turn at bat to slam one of Norv Hilficker's pitches for a home run. The damage was done. However, as the Y came back with a vengeance to capitalize on a batch of Kay errors, plus ten hits, including a home run by Bob Wicks, to win the game by a score of 7-1. Speaking of losses, Waido Unruh, Y infielder and sometimes chucker, took all the joy out of "Jonesville" Saturday night as he blasted a "Hard Luck Jones" pitch for a country mile and the game's winning run against Salem Used Car.



JIM RAWLINS
Faces Burkland leaders

Apparently Al Zuber, Bert Kephart and Gene Hilficker are all eating out of the same box of "Wheaties," as all three broke out with a rash of hits in recent games. Al, against Mt. Angel, hit two homers and followed up with one against Salem Used Car. During this week's play Bert and Gene likewise broke into the home run column. The following, from the standpoint of extra base blows. With three homers each, Don Vandervort and Dale Bennett, Burkland Lumber; Jimmy Stewart and Bob Wicks, YMCA; and Brownie Valdez, Kay Woolen. In the triples department it's Jimmy Stewart and Norv Hilficker, YMCA, with three each, and Johnny Hofert, Burkland Lumber, with two. Atop the doubles department with four is Don Vandervort, Burkland Lumber, closely followed by teammates Al Zuber and Ralph Maddy with three apiece.

Not Enough Collins' to Go Around
Batting averages—what are they? For example, take the case of players other than those appearing in the Burkland lineup. You face Collins, Burkland chucker, four times and get approximately one hit per team if you are lucky. Add this up in your batting average and see where it puts the unlucky sticker. No wonder so many of the Yan men are at the top of the hit column. Should be a Collins in every camp to make for balance.

From out Missouri way, Bourbon to be exact, comes three of this year's city league players—by name: Jerry, Ned and Bob Wicks. Bob, the heaviest sticker of the three, but not the best looking according to Jan, the cute little miss who sits in the front row, is currently listed amongst the leagues' long-ball hitters. The Missouri boys are of the opinion that in the Frisco league, out of St. Louis, it's more speed and not so much tricky stuff on the part of the flingers. In fact, Bob admits being a little panicky when he first faced some of the curve ar' drop ball artists around Salem.

Well, the boys in blue, with the dark glasses and the dog, finally lost an argument, regarding an infield fly rule, to those two "umpire baiters," Excel Kay and Don Hendrie. Fact is, Eric and Don have a typewritten document from a certain sports authority purporting to show just how wrong our two "fair and square" were. The trouble is that I, and dozens of others thought they, the umpires, were right. Getting so you don't know who to believe, eh, Frankie?

It's tonight or never if the Kay men are to retain even a slim chance for first place in the city loop. In two previous encounters with Burklands' Vern Collins, the Kay boys have collected exactly zero safeties off Mr. Collins. As Eric Kay said, "You can't beat 'em if you can't hit 'em" and that may be the story tonight. However, the Kay men, currently in second place, are about due for a rash of hits. And what could be better, from their point of view, than to have the rash tonight? Could happen, if Al Wickert, Brownie Valdez, and Armond Carrow, all heavy stickers, have been exposed enough. Jim Rawlins, mainstay of the Kay pitching staff, and a top flight chucker, is expected to give the Burkland stickers considerable trouble, and with the breaks going his way, could emerge with a victory.

The Kays will of course shoot the works in their effort to topple the leaders and their undefeated Collins. Should be well worth watching.

Football Giants Show Hustle In Blocking, Passing Drills

(Continued from Page 1.)
University of Oregon; Cliff Anderson, Indiana; Bill Stribling, Mississippi; Bob Schmelker, Bowling Green.

Another pass catcher that the Giants own and who might turn any football game into a track meet if he gets loose is Jeff Newton, 195-pounder from North Carolina. He has been clocked at 9.6 seconds in the 100 yard dash. Scouting reports say that the 6-foot, 2-inch Newton has courage and is good at catching. He is expected to be in Salem by Saturday.

On defense in the passing drills were Tom Landry of Texas; Herb Johnson, the Canadian Pro League record breaker from Army; Wayne Berry of Washington State; Ed Tunnell of Iowa and All-League defensive half-back, and Ronald Fraley, the interception ace from TCU.

It was apparent to even a casual spectator at the Tuesday practices that in pro football the players put out all they have on every play. The squad hustled and hustled throughout the drills as if they were warming up for a big clash in the National Football League.

Linemen, and backs as well, smashed into the blocking dummies with the force of a pile-driver. Shouting like the overgrown boys, the Giants made the rounds of the defenseless dummies while the players waiting their turns chided them if they moved at less than full speed.

In a "hole-hitting" practice in scores of Western 'Am' Entries Listed

SEATTLE — Scores in the 1954 Western amateur golf tournament at the end of yesterday's second medal play round included: Al Mundle, Eugene, Ore., 75-76-151.
Ralph Dichter, Gearhart, Ore., 74-76-150.
Harvey Hixson, Eugene, Ore., 76-74-150.
Pete Mundle, Eugene, Ore., 86-83-169.
Rober. Prall, Salem, Ore., 70-77-147.
Bruce Cudd, Portland, Ore., 79-73-149.
George Beschler, Ontario, Ore., 76-75-152.

Rocky's Fight Still Unsure Till Examined

NEW YORK — Al Weill, manager of world heavy champion Rocky Marciano, told International Boxing Club officials Tuesday the fighter would be examined by a New York doctor Thursday in hopes of determining if a late summer title defense will be possible. Marciano suffered severe cuts above his left eye in his victorious battle with Ezzard Charles on June 17.

Weill has said Marciano would need approximately two months in a training camp for a fall bout, possibly a return bout with Charles.

Release of Chukars Started at Hermiston

Liberation of this year's crop of chukar partridge from the Hermiston game farm began on July 15. An initial load of 700 birds approximately 8 weeks old were taken from the farm for release at sites selected in Lake County. Roy Dickinson, game farm superintendent, reported that this was the first liberation of birds raised this year.

Lynch, Njaa Junior Champs

SPOKANE — Birdies on the last two holes brought John Lynch around Manito's course in 74, two over par, Tuesday for the top spot in the Inland Empire's qualifying rounds for the National Junior Golf Tournament.

Another Spokane youth, Paul Njaa, earned the second trip to the United States Golf Assn. sponsored tournament at Los Angeles Aug. 4 in a sudden death play-off. Njaa and Ray Schmidt, Spokane, shot 77's. Schmidt is first alternate.

Other scorers:
Tom True, Spokane, 78.
Wiley Hurst, Yakima, 80.
Jerry Camp Jr., Spokane, 83.
Harry Sharpe, Yakima, 84.
Gary Galbreath, Ritzville, 85.
Dick Parrish, Yakima, 87.
Howard Lefel, Spokane, 87.
Henry Stostenberg, Jr., Yakima, 88.
Wayne Browder, Kennewick, 90.
Barry Leigh, Kennewick, 113.

Split-T to Get Big Pro Test in Giants-Rams Clash

PORTLAND (Special)—"The first professional football team to use the split-T offense will break every scoring and offensive record in the books." That's the prediction of Eddie Erdelatz, coach of Navy.

A good indication of how accurate his prediction will prove will be gleaned here at Multnomah Stadium August 8 in the game between the Los Angeles Rams and New York Giants.

This will be the first game in history in which professional teams will operate from the split-

T. Both the Rams and Giants are now experimenting with this offense, which many college teams have found extremely successful, but when they come to grips in Portland it will be the first time either club will give it the full test.

The most important requirement of the split-T is a quarterback who can run as well as pass. Most pro teams have them but they can't usually afford the luxury of letting the QB run with the ball. He's much too valuable for other missions.

However, both teams are so well supplied at this position this year that they intend to take the risk. The Giants have three former All-Americans who fill the bill in Don Heinrich of Washington, Charlie Conerly of Mississippi and Arnie Galiffa of Army.

The Rams probably won't allow their ace passer, Norm Van Brocklin, to do any running, and when he's directing the team they'll use the conventional "T". However, with Billy Wade, their bonus pick from Vanderbilt, in the lineup, the Rams will go with the split-T almost exclusively.

The use of the split-T offense is only one of the many interesting features of the forthcoming contest, first game to be played anywhere in the country this year.

Interest continues to mount daily and Oregon Sports Attractions expects a near-capacity crowd. Thousands of good seats are still up for grabs and can be obtained by writing OSA here in the Dekum Building. Tickets are also available for the second pro game between the Rams and Chicago Cardinals September 4. Both games are at night.

Pat Lesser Early for Tourney

INDIANAPOLIS — Pat Lesser of Seattle, the 1953 national collegiate champion and low amateur in the Women's National Open, is the early bird for the Women's Western Amateur Golf Tournament next week at Broadmoor Country Club.

The attractive 20-year-old brunette from Seattle University was the first arrival Tuesday and immediately began practicing on the 6,604-yard, par-75 course.

Fairways are baked by a prolonged drought but the well-watered greens are in perfect condition. Officials have received 133 entries and expect about 20 more postmarked before the Monday midnight deadline. All, including defending champion Claire Doran of Cleveland, must take the 18-hole

Second Game Hearing Friday at Portland

The second public hearing on the 1954 hunting regulations will be held at 10 a.m. Friday at the game commission headquarters on the corner of 17th and Southwest Alder in Portland.

At this hearing any changes in the tentative regulations set on the 9th will be discussed and the final rules adopted. Persons desiring to be heard should submit their suggestions to the commission in writing either prior to or at the time of the hearing.

Alex Kellner, left-handed pitcher for the Athletics, holds the dubious distinction of leading the American League in 1953 in wild pitches. He threw 10 wild ones.

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Joe Baze Leading Longacres Jockey

SEATTLE — Sunnyside's Joe Baze, with seven winners last week, continued to make a run-way of the race of leading jockey at the 1954 Longacres meeting.

Figures released by track officials Tuesday showed Baze far in front with 30 winners in 18 days of racing. He also topped the field with 22 seconds and 34 thirds.

The runner-up, Ronnie Ehlers, Long Beach, Calif., has been aboard 14 winners. Ehlers is the meeting's top apprentice rider. Grant Zufelt, Enumclaw, is third with 12.

Heading the list of trainers is Cecil Jolly, Renton, with 19 firsts, 7 seconds and 3 thirds.

HEAVY WORK TAPERS

VANCOUVER B. C. — Canadian heavyweight champion Earl Walls and Argentina's Edgardo Romero tapered off training Tuesday in preparation for their 10-round non-title scrap here Tuesday night.