

# HIGHCLIMBER: San Francisco Worthy of Title as Big League City

By Dick Strite

★ The San Francisco 49ers have never won a National Football League championship. The San Francisco Giants have never won a National (baseball) League pennant.

Fact of the matter is, we can't recall San Francisco winning any sort of national championship other than in basketball. The University of San Francisco Dons, with Pete Newell as coach, won the National Invitational at Madison Square Garden in 1949. The Dons also won the National Collegiate Athletic Assn. (NCAA) championships under coach Phil Woolpert in 1955 and again in 1956.

Of course there have been championships won by teams and individuals within the vast Bay Area, which is really part of San Francisco.

San Francisco sports facilities are of doubtful quality. After covering the East-West Shrine football game at the close of the 1954 season we decided never again to sit in the Kezar Stadium press box unless from sheer necessity. For many years the Football Writers Assn. of America judged Kezar one of the worst in the land.

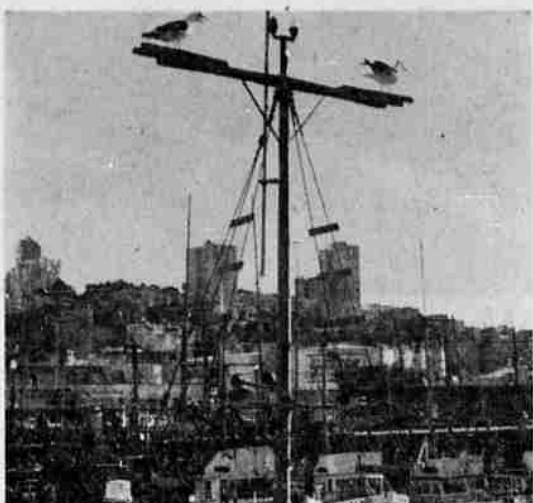
The Cow Palace, improved from early days when cows were shovled out of the way to play basketball, is not a good basketball pavilion because it was built for cattle exhibits. The stalls have been remodeled into dressing rooms and a heating system has been added.

We're inclined to believe the bad publicity given Candlestick Park is exaggerated. We found the park well appointed and that the wind not as bad as one is given to believe.

So what! This introduction is for the purpose of making this column a more legitimate sports column than it might otherwise be. We have a bone to pick. We take exceptions to criticisms appearing in a recent issue of Sports Illustrated and written by Joe David Brown, an admitted New Yorker whose story is titled, "The San Francisco Myth."

We take exceptions to some of Brown's opinions because San Francisco is not only our favorite city, but most certainly the ONLY city of the Pacific coast.

★ Brown, who said he was given to believe San Francisco is one of the gems of the world's cities, spent two weeks in San Francisco and returned disappointed. We're not sure what he expected, but whatever it was he learned San Francisco is a "fraud." He wrote, "But now that I have seen San Francisco I wish to say firmly, though without rancor, that I am thoroughly disillusioned, and that I think



SAN FRANCISCO: BIG LEAGUE OR FRAUD? Fisherman's Wharf, Nob Hill in Background

San Francisco and its myth-mongers should be ashamed of themselves.

"The San Francisco Myth" is well written, as is most of SI, and Brown certainly told many truths while deflating San Francisco as a "big league city." But, by the same token, we're inclined to speculate on whether he took the 35-cent or the de-luxe "Cook's tour." We are not as well traveled as the writer for SI. We've never been to Athens, Hong Kong, Naples, Rome or Paris. But we have lived in Brown's town, and during the "Roaring 20s", too.

We could never recall anything glamorous about Grant's Tomb, the Woolworth Building and the "Statue of Liberty." One does have to take a ferry boat to the Statue of Liberty, or at least that was the requisite in the late 20s. That's one

thing San Francisco lost—the ferry boat trip for rail travelers from the north. Inconvenient maybe, but what a spectacular introduction to a glamorous city—the approach by ferry boat! Thanks to Southern Pacific efficiency and modernism, you now travel to the city from Oakland by bus.

We've been around a spot in these United States, including New York, Boston, Philadelphia, Washington, Chicago, Detroit, Kansas City, Cleveland, Minneapolis, Denver, Salt Lake City, Phoenix, Dallas, Fort Worth, Los Angeles and Seattle. We've eaten in fine restaurants, seen well-appointed hotels, well-groomed women, sight-seeing musts, and entertainment. The opera and art is something we have never exposed to and we'll concede to Brown that maybe San Francisco isn't the best in the world.

We've never looked at San Francisco in that light, so, maybe it is more vulgar, alcoholic and bad-mannered than many so-called big-league cities in the world—Brown has mentioned.

★ We can't imagine anything more magnificent than a sunrise or sunset with San Francisco Bay and the Golden Gate bridge as a backdrop. Battery Park, the Hudson and Washington Bridge are of no comparison.

Chinatowns are probably rather well stereotyped. Maybe Singapore is bigger, but we've always found San Francisco Chinatown as interesting as any. It's been years ago, but we once had the privilege of "breaking bread" with a University of California graduate and the Mayor of Chinatown, at a dinner that was equal to none. The Chinese Skyroom, for food and entertainment, is as good as any. Brown says something about it being a cross between Disneyland and Coney Island. That, too, is debatable.

It is difficult to see why Brown didn't enjoy Fisherman's Wharf and the fleet of fishing crafts that make the area picturesque. Sure, there are hawkers attempting to sell their wares, but there are also excellent seafood restaurants and we wonder if Brown's guides took him to Tarantino's, our favorite at the wharf. There are others just as good.

As for gracious living, San Francisco restaurants are elegant in cuisine. Maybe there are better restaurants in the world than in San Francisco—and we've eaten in some of the best in the U.S.A., including Zucras in New York and Old Bookbinders in Philadelphia. We're happy that Brown liked the "hearty honesty of Jack's," one of our once-a-visit musts. But we're surprised he did not feel disposed to mention

Vanessi's Lupo's and Alexis ("Byzantine Splendor" on Nob Hill).

Brown criticized the San Francisco wines, claiming there wasn't a truly great cellar in San Francisco. We thought the Blue Fox had quite a good cellar and could come up with anything the wine connoisseur would wish.

★ And how about the cable cars? Not as rapid, but certainly more interesting than the subways and "L's," if there are any elevated trains remaining in New York. As for Fisherman's Wharf, the private fleet of fishing boats, which seem to be always present, add just another touch of glamour to San Francisco. Regardless of the modern restaurants and the background of Nob Hill, places like Sheepshead's Bay can't hold a candle to Fisherman's Wharf. The Hotel? We've dined and danced in New York's best, including the old Waldorf-Astoria. San Francisco hotels are the finest and there isn't a hotel in the land that compares to the Palace for authentic appointments of the old "Gold Coast" days.

We'll go along with Brown on some of the uninteresting talked-about tourist sights. We haven't been to the "Top of the Mark" for years. The "hugary i" does little for us, and we're certain Brown can see as many "queer" sights on the subway trains around the Times Square area after midnight as at Finocchio's.

Golden Gate Park must be as interesting as Central Park and Union Square as unique as Washington Park on the fringe of the "Village."

As for entertainment we'd have recommended Earthquake McGoon's, with Turk Murphy's Dixieland Band, the best in the land. How could anyone have neglected taking Brown to Shanty Malone's, regardless of the new location? Unlike the concentration of night spots in Greenwich Village, San Francisco's "joints" are spread out.

★ So, San Francisco has fog, rain and humidity that sends New Yorkers to Central Park in their nightshirts. Nor is there freezing weather that cuts like a knife and blizzards that choke traffic to a standstill.

Maybe Brown didn't realize he was eating a delicacy at every meal—sour-dough bread with saltless butter. How could you, Mr. Brown!

And besides, the Giants and 49ers may be champions in 1962. San Francisco is a "Big League City."

## Saturday in Portland

### Over 130 Athletes Vie in Indoor Meet

Over 130 athletes, competing in 16 events, are poised for the annual Oregon indoor invitational track and field meet next Saturday night at Portland's Memorial Coliseum.

The meet is sponsored by the University of Oregon alumni of Portland.

Meet director Bob Newland said Saturday he expected the competition to be excellent and would not be surprised to see a number of meet and Coliseum records erased when the Northwest's only indoor meet this season unfolds next Saturday.

The shot put and the pole vault figure to provide two of the most exciting duels in the field event. Parry O'Brien, the world record holder, tangles with Lt. Jay Silvester, the world's outstanding weight man in the latter stages of the 1961 campaign, in the shot and Ron Morris, with a 15-8 leap to his credit, goes against John Cramer of Washington and Jeff Chase of San Jose State, both 15-4 performers, in the pole vault.

Bob Avant, the Southern California jumper with the unusual head first technique, will head up his specialty, the high jump, against a field that includes Phil Fehlen, the former Stanford star with a 6-10 jump, and Oregon sophomore Terry Llewellyn, a 5-7 athlete who has gone 6-8 this winter.

The middle distance events feature Daryl Burleson and Jim Grelle in the mile, and Jim Beatty, Oregon's Sig Ohlemann, Norm Hoffman, and possibly California's Jerry Siebert in what could be one of the best 1,000-yard races of the indoor season.

Southern California's Rex Cawley heads up a class 500-yard field, which also includes Norm Monroe and Gary Comer of Oregon State and veteran Keith Thomassen of the Santa Clara Valley Youth Village. The 60-yard dash field is headed by Oregon's Harry Jerome, world record holder at 100 meters. He will be pushed by Lloyd Murad of San Jose State and Jack Higgins of Puget Sound.

A brilliant array of hurdlers has been assembled for the meet, including Jerry Tarr, defending NCAA high hurdler champ from Oregon, former Stanford star Chuck Cobb, USC's Brian Polkinghorne and Bob Pierce, Fran Washington of the Santa Clara V.V.V., and Oregon's Mel Renfro.

Tickets for the meet are on sale at McArthur Court and Mattox Pipe Shop in Eugene. Early interest in the meet is much better than last year, when a crowd of 8,000 track fans gathered at the Coliseum. The meet will be telecast nationally on a delayed basis by ABC's Wide World of Sports.

Portland — Ticket sales for the 14th annual Bill Hayward "Banquet of Champions" have opened, Bob Blackburn, general chairman of the 1962 athletic event, announced.

The banquet, attracting the top sports personalities from the state, will be held Feb. 15 at the University of Portland Commons, starting at 7:30 p.m. The highlight is the naming of Oregon's "Athlete of the Year" and "Man of the Year," for 1961. Tickets, priced at \$7.50, are available in Eugene from Hal Childs at the University of Oregon athletic department.

Woody Hayes, coach of Ohio State's Big Ten championship football team, will be the featured speaker. Blackburn announced that special guest will be Jim Owens, University of Washington grid mentor.

MONDAY—Jeff Timmons vs. Oregon Outlanders at Jefferson Junior High 7.

TUESDAY—Register-Guard vs. Grant at Jefferson Junior High 7.

WEDNESDAY—Register-Guard vs. Grant at Jefferson Junior High 7.

THURSDAY—Register-Guard vs. Grant at Jefferson Junior High 7.

FRIDAY—Register-Guard vs. Grant at Jefferson Junior High 7.

SATURDAY—Register-Guard vs. Grant at Jefferson Junior High 7.



Sea-going and resident varieties of rainbows (shown by Duane Hansford, left, and Dick Kirtley of Eugene are proof that trout angling in Lane County can be rewarding during January's cold days. Hansford holds two steelhead, weighing 7 and 12 pounds, which he caught Thursday in Ten Mile creek on the coast. Kirtley shows the limit catch of 18-inch rainbows which he and Hansford collected the previous day in the borrow pit at the north end of Fern Ridge Reservoir.

### Winter Trout Success

### Saperstein Says ABL Will Survive

NEW YORK (AP)—Abe Saperstein, commissioner of the American Basketball League, admitted Saturday his league has its problems but quickly reaffirmed his belief the group will survive.

"Sure, we've got problems. But every professional league in the history of the country has had its problems. Ours will be straightened out," he said shortly after returning from a 20-day trip to Europe.

Saperstein, who also heads the Chicago Majors of the ABL, said a meeting scheduled in Chicago Sunday to discuss the future of the league "has been cancelled because the alarming conditions that prompted it (the meeting) have disappeared."

### Steelers Leading In Willamalane

Team	W	L	Pct.	GN
Willamette	2	0	1.000	1
Erne Steelers	2	1	.667	1
Timber Tractors	2	1	.667	1
Alexander's	1	2	.333	2
Paddock	1	2	.333	2
Hale Builders	0	2	.000	2 1/2
Winter's Paints	0	2	.000	2 1/2

MONDAY—Hale Builders vs. Paddock 7; Alexander's vs. Free Steelers 8:30.

WEDNESDAY—Winter's Painters vs. Hale Builders 7; Timber Tractors vs. Paddock 8:30.

Erne Steelers are the unbeaten leaders in the Willamalane basketball league and Jack Matthews of Alexander's is the individual scoring leader with a 26.3-point average.

Other scoring leaders are Bob Cook, Paddock, 25.7; Larry Howard, Timber Tractor, 22.0; Don Wouda, Steelers, 19.7; Howie Clarke, Steelers, 19.7; Roman Jones, Timber Tractor, and Bill Robinson, Winter's Painters, both at 17.5; Mike McMahan, Alexander's, 16.0; Ralph Rittemour, Steelers, 15.7, and Don Deines, Winter's Painters, 14.0.

### NHL Results

Detroit 3, Montreal 2  
Boston 3, Toronto 4

### Wright Leads Umps Back Rule Golf Tourney With Stopwatches

SEA ISLAND, Ga. (AP)—Mickey Wright armored herself against the weather with heavy clothing Saturday and posted another 75, three over par, for a one-stroke lead in the Sea Island ladies open gold tournament.

Hitting the ball well, Miss Wright, from Dallas, Tex., demonstrated her mastery of the Sea Island course.

Twice she drove into the water only to recover and post nines of 39 and 36 for a second day total of 150.

Betsy Rawls of Spartanburg, S.C., missed on the 18th hole and had to settle for second at 151 on the basis of her 75. Her short approach shot went wide of the cup and the 12-foot putt failed to drop.

Most golfers in the field of more than 100 complained that the Sea Island course was too demanding to start a tournament year.

Marilyn Smith, of Jupiter, Fla., who had tied Miss Wright the first day, carded a 78 and 153 total. Her final nine was a five over par 41.

Sandra Haynie, Fort Worth, Tex., retained fourth spot with another 77 for a 154 total.

A fifth place tie at 156 with Barbara Romack of Sacramento, Calif., was gained by newcomer pro Beth Stone, of Muskogee, Okla. She shot the day's low round of 74, eight strokes better than her first day.

SEATTLE (AP)—Pacific Coast League baseball umpires will carry stopwatches this year to make sure the circuit's pitchers waste no time.

"We will insist upon strict enforcement of the rule that the pitcher must deliver the ball to the batter 20 seconds after receiving it," said league president Dewey Soriano.

"Baseball must keep step with other sports that set time limits to prevent stalling and slowing up of action.

"Our umpires also will be told to insist that batters take their positions promptly, although the official rules do not set a time limit."

The umpire-in-chief will signal when the watch is to start, Soriano said. The third-base umpire, holding the watch, will call time when there is a violation.

A "ball" will be called, just as if the pitcher had thrown and missed the plate.

If the pitcher has started his motion there will be no violation. Soriano said the umpires also will be told to make sure the catcher returns the ball promptly to the pitcher.

A baseball rule, the president said, should be enforced or eliminated. He recalled the league's test several years ago of the

rule requiring a pitcher to pause for one second in a set position when there were runners on base.

The one-season test resulted in about 400 balks, said Soriano—a ridiculous total. The one-sided rule has been all but ignored in professional baseball since that experiment.

"There are other rules," he added without elaboration, "that need a complete overhauling by the rules committee to bring the diamond code up to date."

Men's Volleyball  
TUESDAY—YM Masters vs. Oregon and Spikers vs. EFM, both 7; A & B vs. YM and Jaybirds vs. Brush-beaters, both 8; SP's vs. Cruisers, 9.

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