

South Falls From Among A-1 Tourney Contenders

By PAUL HARVEY III Of the Register-Guard

Medford and North Eugene were still alive.

So was defending champion Grants Pass.

But one of the pre-tournament picks — South Eugene — was off in consolation play Thursday as the state A-1 basketball tournament entered the championship quarterfinals.

South Eugene, No. 2-ranked team in the state, was dumped by defensive-minded Milwaukie 47-41 Wednesday night in the lone first-round upset of McArthur Court classic.

Before the tournament, the state's sportswriters picked South Eugene, North Eugene and Medford as the most likely to succeed.

South Eugene is out of the picture

and either Medford or North Eugene was to be after Thursday afternoon.

The two powers met in the opening game of the quarterfinal round at 3 p.m., Pendleton met Astoria at 4:15 p.m., Grants Pass tangles with Sandy at 7:30 p.m. and Tigard goes against Milwaukie at 9:45 p.m.

Never before have two Portland clubs lost both opening round games.

Two circuits, the Southern Oregon Conference with Medford and Grants Pass and the Metro with Astoria and Milwaukie, both sent a pair of teams into the quarterfinals.

It's no strange place for Astoria. The Fishermen have made the second round 27 times.

Tournament attendance records continued to fall as 9,618 watched the Wednesday night action and a total of 22,018 saw the three sessions Wednesday.

Both were records and the five-day mark of 83,417 set a year ago is in

jeopardy. The attendance after one round is 6,167 greater than the record pace of 1962 when 83,417 attended.

High-powered offense was the rule in the opening round. Grants Pass, as it did a year ago has tremendous balance, turned in the top performance.

Defensively, Milwaukie — the team with the best defensive record among the state's A-1 schools — showed the most.

Deliberate on offense and allowing South Eugene nothing on defense, the Mustangs pulled away in the second half when South Eugene hit a long scoring drought.

The Mustangs held their opposition to an average of 37.1 points a game during the regular season. South Eugene averaged 63.6 a game.

South Eugene coach Hank Kuchera called his club's performance probably the worst he's ever had in a tournament.

He's coached 13 Axemen teams into the tourney in 20 years.

The Axemen were out-rebounded, out-shot and the only thing they had the edge on was ball handling mistakes. They made them when they hurt the most — when Milwaukie was rallying.

On top of that, South Eugene made only two field goals in 19 attempts during a span in the second half. The Axemen went more than nine minutes without a field goal.

Grants Pass, which got 32 points from Al Hutchins, rolled past South Salem 76-47 in what was expected to be a close game but became a surprising rout in the second half.

Astoria, led by all-state candidate Dave Romppan, had its problems before clipping Tillamook 58-53 and Pendleton moved away in the final period for a 61-46 win over Molalla.

Sandy, eliminated early a year ago, had no trouble in bouncing Hermiston

72-56 and Tigard downed Franklin 61-51 in the other first round games Wednesday.

None matched the opening night's thrills that saw a pair of overtime battles — Medford over Lebanon 67-63 and No. 1-ranked North Eugene over Marshall 68-66.

Two highly-touted stars had their problems Wednesday, South Eugene's 6-8 John Pinkstaff getting but four points and South Salem's Gary Allen only eight.

Hutchins was the individual surprise of the tournament's opening action. A member of the junior varsity last year when Grants Pass surprised everyone but itself by winning the tournament, Hutchins was out in the early season with an injury.

Grants Pass coach Gordon Prehm said Hutchins has been coming along. Prehm was right. Hutchins' 32 points equaled the opening-round high of Medford's Jack Forde in the 67-63

triumph over Lebanon Tuesday night.

Pendleton, the highest scoring team in the state with a 70-point average, didn't show it for three quarters, then broke loose for a 35-point fourth quarter to win going away.

Romppan, a second team all-tournament choice last year, pulled Astoria from the brink of defeat after Tillamook had fought within a point in the final period.

Romppan, who finished with 26 points, scored three crucial baskets to provide a lead the losing Cheesemakers never could overcome.

Grants Pass dropped behind in the early going, then went ahead by nine points at halftime and, shooting 50 per cent in the second half, went ahead by 29 in the late stages.

Sandy had no trouble, pulling far ahead in the second half, and Tigard rallied in the second half to whip Franklin with free throws turning the tide.



'Let's Go Axemen!'



'One Minute Left'



'What Kind of a Call ...'



'Uh, Oh, We Lost'

(Register-Guard photos by Phil Walcott)

Tigard Trips Franklin, 61-51

Tigard broke a 51-all deadlock with a string of free throws Thursday night and trimmed Franklin 61-51 to become the final first-round A-1 tourney winner.

Tigard, fighting back in the second half after dropping behind by nine points, hit eight free throws, while Franklin was going scoreless.

Tigard topped it off with a field goal in the closing seconds. Franklin moved ahead 29-25 at halftime, then went on a spree that provided a nine-point edge with 1 1/2 minutes played in the second half.

Three minutes later Tigard forged a one-point lead and turned the contest into a see-saw battle.

Tigard led 41-40 with a period left, then dropped behind early in the fourth quarter before

coming back for deadlocks at 42-all and 44-all.

The winning Tigers finally got the lead again when Bill Bastron hit a field goal for a 49-48 edge, then didn't lead again until Bastron broke the 51-all tie with two free throws.

The game was a big one for both clubs on the backboards, Tigard getting 54 rebounds and Franklin 52, and while Franklin took more shots from the field, 70 to 58, Tigard made more, hitting at a 36.2 clip to a 28.6 mark for Franklin.

The Tigers also had the edge in free throws. The streak at the end gave them 19 of 28 while Franklin could convert only 11 of 19.

Attendance: 9,618 (New Wednesday night record. Old mark 9,211 set in 1961.) Wednesday total—22,018. (New record. Old Wednesday mark 21,798 set in 1955.)

Rooting For South

One of South Eugene's most ardent rooters in its state A-1 basketball tournament game against Milwaukie at McArthur Court Wednesday night was three-year-old Debbie Eklund, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Eklund, 275 East 39th Ave., Eugene. As South's mascot she joined the rest of the almost 10,000 fans in expressing her sympathies as South led early in the game, faded and finally fell, 47-41.

Table with columns: Player, FG, FT, RB, PF, TP. Lists stats for Franklin (51), Tigard (61), and South Salem (47).

Milwaukie Defense Surprises Axemen for 47-41 Triumph

Milwaukie, which came into the A-1 tournament with the best defensive record of the 16 teams, proved it Wednesday night.

The Mustangs, who held their opponents to an average of 37.1 points a game, used a zone defense and a deliberate offense

to upset favored South Eugene 47-41 in opening round action of the A-1 tournament.

"When you don't penetrate a defense," said South Eugene coach Hank Kuchera, "you don't win."

South Eugene, a club that had hit only two of 19 shots since the intermission.

Wednesday night, got few shots inside, were out-rebounded and out-shot.

At one point in the second half—when Milwaukie was building up the edge that provided the triumph—the Axemen had hit only two of 19 shots since the intermission.

Not even North Eugene—with four players 6-5 or better—had out-rebounded the Axemen when South was at full strength. The Mustangs did by a 37-33 margin.

John Pinkstaff, South Eugene's all-state candidate, got but four points on a single field goal and a pair of free throws.

"We never got inside with that ball," said Kuchera. "We just didn't play our game. We were inept at handling that ball."

Kuchera, with his 13th tournament team, said it probably was the worst performance he's ever had in the annual classic.

The Axemen, the pick of the state's sportswriters by a slim margin to capture the title, led much of the first half—when they were getting reasonable shooting.

After dropping behind in the early moments, the Axemen came back for a half dozen five-point leads, then slowly lost the edge late in the first half.

Dave Green, who turned in what Milwaukie coach John Rhode called his best offense game ever, led a rally that saw Milwaukie trail only 23-21 at halftime, then move in front for good at the start of the second half.

Green's 15-foot jump shot provided the lead but South Eugene stayed within a point until three minutes remained in the third quarter.

Then the cold spell really set in.

When Dick Shearer hit from the side with 1:30 left in the period, it was to be the last Axemen field goal until 1:24 was left in the game.

In the meantime, Milwaukie grabbed a lead that reached 10 points.

Table with columns: Player, FG, FT, RB, PF, TP. Lists stats for Eugene (41) and Milwaukie (47).

Totals: 14-47 13-16 33 13 41. Includes 4 team rebounds.

Table with columns: Player, FG, FT, RB, PF, TP. Lists stats for Eugene (41) and Milwaukie (47).

Totals: 18-44 11-18 37 12 47. Includes 8 team rebounds.

Table with columns: Player, FG, FT, RB, PF, TP. Lists stats for Eugene (41) and Milwaukie (47).

Totals: 12 10 9 10-41. Includes 8 team rebounds.

Table with columns: Player, FG, FT, RB, PF, TP. Lists stats for Eugene (41) and Milwaukie (47).

Officials: Bob Stewart and Pat Ford.

A-1 Tourney

WEDNESDAY'S RESULTS: Championship First Round. Pendleton 61, Molalla 45. Grants Pass 76, South Salem 57. Sandy 72, Hermiston 56. Milwaukie 47, South Eugene 41. Tigard 61, Franklin 51.

THURSDAY'S RESULTS: Consolation Quarterfinals. Marshall 69, Lebanon 55. Molalla 59, Tillamook 51. South Salem 82, Hermiston 41.

THURSDAY'S SCHEDULE: Consolation Quarterfinals. Championship Quarterfinals. Medford-North Eugene, 3 p.m. Grants Pass-Tillamook, 4:15 p.m. Grants Pass-Sandy, 7:30 p.m. Milwaukie-Tigard, 8:45 p.m.

FRIDAY'S SCHEDULE: Consolation Semifinals. Marshall-Molalla, 9:30 a.m. South Salem vs. South Eugene, 11:45 a.m.

Fourth Place Semifinals. Medford-North Eugene (owner vs. Pendleton-Astoria) loser, 5 p.m. Grants Pass-Sandy (owner vs. Milwaukie-Tigard) loser, 3:15 p.m.



(Register-Guard photos by Phil Grenon)

Hidden Head Trick

This could be called the hidden-head trick. Caught for these two instants behind basketballs are Bob Officer (50) of South Eugene and Ron Beall of Milwaukie during their first-round state A-1 championship game at McArthur Court Wednesday night. Milwaukie defenses pretty well kept the basket hidden from South as well in posting 47-41 victory.