

Skits and Scratches

By Fred Zimmerman
Capital Journal Sports Editor

Neither Willamette university nor the city of Salem has tossed in the sponge in connection with the 1944 basketball tournament. But unless some pretty fast action is taken in the immediate future, this sports classic may well be taken away from the capital. And once removed from our local campus, brother, it won't be returned unless covetous communities get to fighting among themselves.

Presence of a naval unit at Willamette university complicates the situation somewhat insofar as conducting the tournament on the schedule which has been in effect for a number of years. The gymnasium would be free for outside use early in month but the March 16, 17, 18 dates as announced by the Oregon High School Activities association would necessitate some shifting around. Willamette's gym would be occupied by the sailors during the forenoon of those three days, but there is nothing to prevent tournament occupation in the afternoon and evening. The consolation bracket could be shifted to Salem high school, where facilities are more than ample. It is understood the Viking gym would be available.

While Willamette is interested in the tournament since the Methodists pioneered the affair, it isn't reasonable to expect Prof. Lestle Sparks, with a short office crew will get down on his knees and supplicate the board of control to head the courtsters this way next March. However, we know that Willamette will do everything in its power to make the tournament a success should the higher ups decide to continue the affair here.

Jefferson high of Portland appears to have submitted a bid for the 1944 tourney even though that school's physical plant isn't a bit more commodious than Willamette's. Probably the main pinch in Salem would be housing accommodations, but we believe that could be worked out through a bit of planning and cooperation all around. Just where Portland would house the kids is a mystery since the ordinary citizen must make a reservation a month in advance to get a bunk in one of the downtown hotels. There is a report that the army intends taking over a couple of the hotels, lock, barrel and stock. If that should occur, what chance would a couple hundred high school boys have? Arrangements might be made to house them at Portland university. As a matter of fact the entire tournament in all probability could be run off there if it is decided to move it from Salem.

If Salem had gotten behind the proposal to construct a portable floor for use in the horse pavilion of the state fair grounds, there would be no question now as to where the tournament is to be held. That building would house several thousand spectators. Dormitory accommodations might have been available out there, too. We wouldn't be surprised if Astoria would put in a bid for the tournament. The Fishermen have the gym facilities, but their housing accommodations are no more ample than in the valley. Then, too, Astoria is quite some distance from the center of population.

A card from Tats Yada, Salem high school student and popular athlete at Willamette university, states that he is employed by the Cornhusker hotel of Lincoln, Neb., as a buyer. One of his brothers is attending Nebraska university and the other is a student at Wesleyan university. "I wouldn't trade an acre of Oregon for the entire state of Nebraska," Tats admits.

Drumheller Hires Prominent Jockey

Salem, Dec. 21 (AP)—Allan Drumheller of Walla Walla, Wash., owner of Sirde, announced today he had engaged George Woolf, considered one of the nation's outstanding money jockeys, to ride the Pacific northwest 2-year-old colt in the Kentucky Derby.

Drumheller said the contract is contingent on the manner in which the Mio D'Arceza colt trains for the Churchill Downs classic. Sirde was one of the leading thoroughbreds at the Bay Meadows track's fall season which ended Saturday.

Program Is Arranged

Woodburn—St. Benedict's parochial school will close Wednesday and will not reopen until January 3. At 1:30 Wednesday afternoon a Christmas program will be given which will include songs, instrumental music, a Christmas pageant and a clown drill. The public is invited.

Survey Favors Football Play

Chicago, Dec. 21 (AP)—Major John L. Griffith believes the western conference has proven the value of continuing wartime football and that colleges which suspended the sport will flock back into the fold in 1944.

"Many schools have realized they made a big mistake by hastily dropping football," the big ten commissioner said today. "Western conference teams, playing before 1,055,000 spectators in home games this fall, profited enough financially to assure a complete sports program next year."

A survey of football by Griffith in 12 midwestern states showed:

Ninety-eight percent of the fans were in agreement with the navy policy which permits V-12 students to compete on varsity teams.

Ninety-eight percent thought 17 and 18-year-old boys on college teams showed up well with older teammates and against older opponents.

Ninety-eight percent believed football should be continued in 1944 and that college administrations should be urged to keep intercollegiate programs operating for the duration.

The poll disclosed that 48 percent of the fans traveled to games by automobile, 14 percent by train, 13 percent walked, and 25 percent used public conveyances such as street cars and elevated trains. The greatest average distance traveled by fans to games was 56 miles.

Eastern Shrine Gridders Arrive

San Francisco, Dec. 21 (AP)—Twenty-four strong, the travel weary East all-star football team was due here today for the New Year's day game with the West all-stars.

Coach Andy Kerr's charges include Bob Hoernschmeyer, spectacular Indiana freshman rated second among the nation's passers, who may be matched against another yearling prodigy, Herman Wedemeyer of St. Mary's College, Calif., Hawaiian triple-threat.

Coach Orin (Babe) Hollingbery ran his 22-man squad through drills today in Kezar stadium, site of the Shrine hospital benefit, and tomorrow moves his players to Menlo Junior college at Menlo Park on the peninsula for 11 intensive workouts before the official kickoff.

Duration League Winners Awarded

Woodburn—At a special assembly at Woodburn high school awards were presented by Coach Burnett to the football squad, winners of the Duration league championship. Seniors receiving awards were: Bob Austin and Bruce Nelson, the star for co-captains; Byron Grim, Jim Jensen and Everett Seaton, the big letter; Juniors, Bill Austin, Max Omans, Earl Mattison, Chester English, Babe Reed, Marvin Mattison and Ed Pavlicek.

Sophomores, Alvoid (Superman) Zuber, Jake Murphy and Carl Long. Freshmen, Cecil Parks.

The coach was presented with a trophy from the team the presentation being made by Bob Austin.

Mrs. Shields Honor Guest on Birthday

Amity—Mrs. Hettie Shields of this city was honored Sunday with a dinner party at her home celebrating her 86th birthday anniversary. Her children were all present. They were Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Romig, Dr. and Mrs. Harley Shields of Portland, Mr. and Mrs. George Shields of Bethel, and Mr. and Mrs. Otho Shields of Amity. Her niece, Mrs. Clara Armstrong of Portland and Mrs. Luella Shipley of Amity were also present.

Mrs. Shields has been a resident of this community for many years and has lately recovered from an illness of several months.

Boxer Succumbs To Kayo Blow

Chicago, Dec. 21 (AP)—Al Reasoner, 23-year-old lightweight boxer, died in Columbus hospital today, about five hours after he suffered a technical knockout in a 10-round boxing bout last night with Freddie Dawson of Chicago.

Reasoner, who had been boxing professionally since October, 1942, was unconscious when he was carried from the ring in the 10th round and died without regaining consciousness, said Dr. E. J. Buchanan of the Illinois Athletic commission.

Rickreall Beaten

Rickreall—The boys' basketball team and the girls' volleyball team played Perrydale Friday night but neither brought home a victory.

SPORTS

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Higher, Larger Baskets Would Loosen Game, Critic Believes

By Hugh Fullerton, Jr.
New York, Dec. 21 (AP)—When such a basketball expert as the Oklahoma Aggies' Hank Iba grudgingly admits that a suggested change in basketball "might work," this Dept. feels safe in popping off about it. . . . Our idea was to hoist the basket out of reach of the extra-tall boys and to make it larger so that shooters would have a reasonable chance of hitting their mark without getting into those traffic jams under the bucket. . . . Iba, who contends that basketball will see a lot of post-war changes, agreed that anything that tends to produce more outside shots will give the spectators a chance to see what's going on inside. . . . Then he added still another point — if the backboards are higher, the rebounds will go farther out into the court. . . . Maybe we still couldn't see what some of the clever ball handlers were doing, but we'd like to see the experiment made once.

Quote, Unquote

Coach Dutch Bergman (explaining the Redskins' victory over the Giants Sunday): "The three-day rest at the Westchester Country club made all the difference. You know most of these boys work an eight-hour shift daily. I was able to get them off for two days this week. They had drive. We'll try to get to Chicago a few days early like we did here."

Service Dept.

The National football league's service list numbers 387 men, all taken from active duty with the clubs, and just half of them are commissioned officers. Ex-Yankee Scooter Rizzuto, playing basketball for the welfare and recreation team at the Norfolk naval training station, topped his team in scoring twice last week, but W.R. lost once to the anti-submarine warfare outfit paced by two other baseballers, Benny McCoy and Eddie Robinson.

Sport Shorts

New York, Dec. 21 (AP)—Baseball plans to carry on in 1944 as long as each club can field nine men according to Ford C. Frick, president of the National league.

The head of the senior loop pointed out that the game was not trying to minimize the number of stars who have been called to service nor the seriousness of the problem it faces but was prepared to accept what is left with no thought of closing down.

Rip Sewell Wins Dapper Dan Award

Pittsburgh, Dec. 21 (AP)—Truett (Rip) Sewell, ace pitcher for the Pittsburgh Pirates last year, won the fifth annual athletic award of the Dapper Dan club, a charity organization of sportsmen.

The blonde hurler of the super-slow "blooper" ball polled 20 votes, six more than boxer Fritz Zivic. He will be given a pocket watch at a dinner here next February.

The award is made to the sports figure who is considered to have done most in publicizing the city. Other winners have been boxer Billie Conn, Zivic, Buff Donelli, Duquesne university grid coach, and Billy Dudley, star of the Pittsburgh pro steelers.

San Francisco, Dec. 21 (AP)—When the liberty freighter Charles Paddock is launched this week-end, it will carry an extra accessory—a pair of spiked shoes once worn in competition by the former world sprint star, a captain of marines when he was killed last July in an Alaskan plane crash.

After the war the shoes are to be returned to his widow, Mrs. Neva Frisk Paddock of Pasadena, who plans to have them copper-plated for posterity.

Two Jail Inmates Reported by Dallas

Dallas — Larry Dean Arance, 17, was fined \$5 and sentenced to serve ten days in the Polk county jail when arraigned before Justice of the Peace Charles Gregory Monday on a motor vehicle violation charge. Arance was arrested by state police Saturday, charged with operating a vehicle without a driver's license.

Willie Gorsline, 18, was arrested in Independence Saturday by city police on a charge of threatening to commit a felony, and brought to the county jail to await disposition of his case.

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Welch Stresses Defense Drill

Seattle, Dec. 21 (AP)—Coach Pest Welch, who says that all he wants for Christmas is a Happy New Year with his Washington Huskies entitled to the larger numbers on the Rose Bowl scoreboard, today increased the tempo of defensive drills to bring his squad to top condition before entraining for Los Angeles Friday.

Staging "secret" drills on defensive maneuvers designed to bottle up University of Southern California's speed and aerial power, Welch emphasized the need for stopping Trojan plays "before they reach the line of scrimmage." Welch tutored ends personally in rushing the passer and other linemen were instructed to be wary of USC's quick-opening plays which have netted a lot of yardage this season.

Admitting that his offense still lacked all the punch he desired, Welch said he was giving defensive tactics top consideration during the remaining workouts here. The 28-man Husky traveling squad will head for Los Angeles Christmas eve and arrive on Sunday, leaving six days for the team to become acclimated.

All but two of the players have been selected for the team which will represent Washington in the Pacific coast championship play-off game.

New Rubber Ball Available in 1944

New York, Dec. 21 (AP)—National League President Ford Frick confirmed today that a new baseball with a synthetic rubber core had been approved by the major leagues and that it would be available in quantity production for the 1944 season.

The ball replaces the balata core ball used last season and blamed generally for the drop in batting averages in both leagues.

Frick also discussed the baseball manpower situation briefly, stressing that the National league was determined to carry on as long as every club was able to put a team on the field.

"This matter was discussed at some length during the winter meetings early this month and we have come now to the decision that financial losses, no matter how heavy they may be, will not close up our parks," he said.

Golfing Red Head Voted Top Athlete

New York, Dec. 21 (AP)—The United States marine corps reserve harbors the woman athlete of the year in Lt. Patty Berg, the golfing red head from Minneapolis, who yesterday was so acclaimed by the Associated Press in its annual poll of the nation's sports editors.

A year ago it appeared probable that Miss Berg might never make another sports headline as she had suffered a fractured knee cap and lacerated jaw in a Texas automobile collision. But she hit the comeback trail and recaptured her women's western open crown in a thrilling last round duel with Dorothy Kirby.

It's the second win for Miss Berg in the annual poll by which she was crowned in 1938. She and Alice Marble, champ in 1939 and 1940, are the only repeaters.

Dayton Teams Defeat Dundee

Dayton—Dayton Union high school's boys' basketball team and the girls' volleyball team won in their first league games of the season played Friday evening at Dundee. The boys won 45-21 and the girls 21-20.

Beavers Defeated By 49-43 Score

Corvallis, Ore., Dec. 21 (AP)—Oregon State college and Pacific Packers' basketball teams prepared for the second game in their two-day series here tonight following a 49-43 overtime victory by the Portland semipro five over the orangemen last night.

The Packers led 22-19 at half time, but the lead changed eight times in the second period and tied at 42-42 before the visitors ran up a margin to which Murray Logan, Packer forward, was high scorer with 16 points.

Yanks Finish Out in Front

By Jack Hand
New York, Dec. 21 (AP)—It's the New York Yankees doing the rags to riches routine to move from the biggest disappointment of 1942 to number one team of 1943 but Joe McCarthy's clan had to go hard to nose out Notre Dame's Irishmen.

For the twelfth straight year the annual poll of sports writers conducted by the Associated Press has produced a baseball winner but football might have broken the string this time if Notre Dame had been able to get past the Great Lakes sailors in the last game.

Final tabulations show the Yankees and Irish received the same number of first place votes, 32 each, but the world champs got their winning margin in total points, 168-166, through the balloting for second and third. Once again it was the world series that counted most with the voters just as last year's top award had gone to the Red Birds from St. Louis after they had dazzled the baseball world with their speed.

Of the 27 teams mentioned in the poll, 13 were football clubs with the remainder divided among basketball with five, baseball with four, hockey with three and swimming with two. Illinois' Whiz Kids, who won the Big 10 basketball title without losing a game, surprised with 11 first place ballots and enough points, 57, to give them third place by a comfortable margin over the Chicago Bears who placed fourth with 18 points and only one vote for first.

Ohio State's swimming team picked up two first place votes.

Roseburg Beaten By Klamath High

Roseburg, Ore., Dec. 21 (AP)—Klamath Falls, last year's prep high school champion, defeated Roseburg 34-22 in the first of a two-game basketball series here last night.

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