

Skits and Scratches

By Fred Zimmerman
Capital Journal Sports Editor

"An athletic field without a baseball diamond? Phooey!"

This correspondent has been bombarded from a number of weeks who figuratively hold their noses as they repeat the opening statement of this column. And, of course, they refer to Salem high's athletic plant, where no provision was made for baseball. The chief objection to the manner in which the field was laid out was failure to enclose the football field with the track. Placing of the track along the western part of the field parallel with the Southern Pacific's main line, ruined an ideal spot for baseball, the objectors claim. They point out that home plate could have been established near the northern end of the tennis courts, with bleacher seats being provided along the third base line. Furthermore, 'tis said, no provision has been made for track spectators and "the same old situation, with fans crowding on to the track to see the finish will exist." Another gripe is the construction of a 220 yard straight away, "something that modern athletic fields do not include."

By way of rebuttal, Connel Ward, business manager for the Salem school district, who spoke in the absence of Superintendent Frank B. Bennett, pointed out that the entire program was discussed and blue printed well in advance of construction. Furthermore the directors thought they had solved the baseball situation with the purchase of the Baker street property. He suggested that the doubters might do a bit of constructive work by seeking to have the zone dispute that currently tied up the property, settled. It is a fact that the football development, when completed, will bring the fans closer to the players than elsewhere in the state or northwest. The stands will be built virtually on the sidelines, so close in fact, a spectator may be in a good position to snag a forward pass now and then when the tossers aim becomes a bit wobbly.

Perhaps if stands were provided for track and field spectators, more interest would be shown in the sport. However, in the past those who were in competition have outnumbered the fans on an average of 2 to 1. The same condition applies to high school and collegiate baseball, although if it were possible to play under lights, we believe diamond games would attract a much larger following. But the cost of illumination enters into the picture. So far gate receipts have not been sufficient to pay for the baseballs and the umpire fees.

Development of an athletic field in Bend for use of baseball and softball clubs is now under way at Bend. Rough grading of the field located in the southeast part of the city was completed during the winter. The field is to be enclosed and a \$9000 illumination project is under consideration. Bend is a member of the State League. . . . Here in Salem the softball association plans to make a strong bid for the state tournament to be held next August. While a low bid will carry considerable weight with the state association, know how and ability to carry out the tournament to a successful conclusion will play a prominent part in negotiations. Experience gained over a period of years should give Salem a strong talking point in the final analysis. It is probable Gurnee Fleisher will become Salem's softball general manager.

Shinn Wins in Handball Meet

Portland, March 22 (AP)—Winners in the annual northwest Y.M.C.A. handball tournament will be crowned tonight at the close of the two-day meet. Results yesterday included: Class B Singles—Dick Mather, Portland, defeated Charles Morton, Yakima, 21-14, 21-9; Lee Shinn, Salem, defeated W. Hawks, Yakima, 21-11, 19-21, 21-5.

Sooners Shade Beavers, 56-54, in Kansas City Meet



French lad ogles Middleweight Marcel Cerdan, as the top French boxer prepares for second U.S. invasion. He fights in Madison Square Garden March 28.

Oilers, Oakland in Finals Of National AAU Tournament

Denver, March 22 (AP)—Bartlesville, Okla., defending champion, meets Oakland, Calif., tonight in the finals of the National AAU basketball tournament. The teams which were seeded 1-2 at the start of the week-long dribble derby pounded through the semi-finals last night with little trouble. Bartlesville downed Seattle, Wash., 47-23, and Oakland passed the Denver Nuggets, 55-40.

Bartlesville's victory over Seattle last night was about as easy as previous Bartlesville tournament victories. The game was 13 minutes old before Seattle, conqueror of third-seeded Oklahoma City in the third round, scored a field goal.

It was a case of too much power, although the Seattle defense was the toughest Bartlesville had seen in the tournament since walking over Roanoke, Ca., Glendale City College, and Golden, Colo.

Riggs, Budge Reach Finals

Philadelphia, March 22 (AP)—Bobby Riggs and Don Budge, as expected, will meet in the finals of the Philadelphia Inquirer charities \$10,000 professional indoor tennis tournament tonight at the arena.

Riggs, seeded No. 1, and Budge, seeded No. 2, won by identical scores, 6-1, 6-4 in the semi-finals last night before a crowd of 5000. Riggs eliminated tennis' clown prince, Frank Kovacs of Oakland, Calif., and Budge, also from Oakland, overpowered Fred Perry, of Miami, Fla., the former English Davis cupper.

In a tandem doubles final tonight, Kovacs and Perry will meet Budge and Riggs.

Sun Valley Jr. Ski Meet Set

Sun Valley, Idaho, March 22 (AP)—The youngsters next week end will take over the Sun Valley ski slopes occupied just a week ago by the cream of the international corps.

Nine western state have filed entries for the Western Junior American Legion ski championships, March 29 and 30. Tournament officials said that because of the lack of accommodations at Sun Valley each state would be permitted to send only five skiers.

Entries have been received from Idaho, Montana, Washington, Oregon, Wyoming, Utah, Colorado, California and Arizona.

Fircrests Cop Hornet Series

Vancouver, B. C., March 22 (AP)—The Bellingham Fircrests won the Round Robin series from the Vancouver Hornets by virtue of a 49-to-39 victory before 1500 fans here last night. The halftime score was Bellingham 16, Vancouver 13. Norm Baker, Vancouver forward, won scoring honors with 15 points. Gale Bishop of Bellingham was next with 14 points. The two teams play in Bellingham tonight.

Jackets Sign 2 More

Lewiston, Idaho, March 22 (AP)—Two more Brenerton Bluejackets were under contract today as the Western International league club swung into its third year of spring training. Signing yesterday were Jim Lowman, pitcher, and Scrapy Curtis, second baseman. Out for at least a week is Bill Ahern, who was burned severely in a shower yesterday.

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Texas Scores Narrow Win Over Wyo.

Kansas City, Mo., March 22 (AP)—Oklahoma's Big Six champions, with their marvelous pivot man, Gerald Tucker, playing his greatest game, knocked Oregon State out of the NCAA western basketball playoffs last night in an uproarious game in which the issue hung in doubt until the gun. The score was 56-54.

In the first semi-final game, Texas slipped out in the last 40 seconds to beat Wyoming, 42-40. It was sweet revenge for the Longhorns, who four years ago were felled by the Wyoming Cowboys in the NCAA playoffs here. Wyoming then went on to win the national title.

A crowd of 8500, jamming municipal auditorium to its rafters, saw Oklahoma, rated a definite underdog, get to work early and push out to a 29-25 lead at the 15-minute mark of the first half.

But Oregon State's vaunted offense began to click then and the Beavers pulled to within three points before Oklahoma's Allie Paine slipped in for a set-up in the dying seconds of the half to make the score 32-27.

Okies Lead at Half The Sooners held a 46-39 lead at the 11-minute mark of the last half, but in two and one-half minutes Oregon State rushed into a one-point lead as Lew Beck hit three from the field and Cliff Crandall added another pair.

The lead see-sawed as Beck and Bill Waters traded fielders but Tucker's marvelous pivot work, feeding off to Dick Reicher and Allie Paine, sent the Sooners away. Beck hit again, however, and Morie Silver contributed another. It was 56-54 and Oregon State unleashed a last second spurge of shots but failed to find the hoop as Oklahoma finally rebounded with only 10 seconds to go.

Free Throws Did It It was Oklahoma's work at the charity line which beat back the west coasters. The Sooners hit their first 12 without a miss, and ended with a tally of 16 good in 23 tries. Oklahoma hit 20 times from the court, while Oregon State was good for 22 fielders.

Lew Beck, the brilliant Oregon shot-maker, got 20 points. Paul Courty and Tucker each got 17 for Oklahoma. Tall Red Rocha got 12 for the coast team.

OREGON STATE 51 M OKLAHOMA Anderson 1 P 11 Reich Crandall 8 F 17 Courty Rocha 12 C 17 Tucker Beck 2 G 5 Silver 2 G 4 Paine Oregon State subs—Samuel, Carey, Turvey 6, Peterson 5, Roelandt; Oklahoma subs—Jones, Landon 2, Merchant.

Trapshooters Compete

Spokane, March 22 (AP)—A war-interrupted trapshoot series between Spokane and Portland gun clubs will be resumed Sunday in Portland. The event was last held in 1941.

Exhibition Baseball

(By the Associated Press) Boston (A) 4, Detroit (A) 2, Detroit (A) "B" 9, Louisville (AA) 2, Chicago (A) 2, Cleveland (A) 1, New York (A) 3, Cincinnati (N) 0, Pittsburgh (N) 5, Philadelphia (N) 4, St. Louis (N) 5, Philadelphia (N) 4, Washington (A) 8, Chattanooga (SA) 2, Brooklyn (N) 5, Panama General Electric 0, Boston (N) 17, Fort Lauderdale (FI) 8, Oakland (PCL) 2, Chicago (N) 1.

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FROM TEETH TO TEES



Cary Middlecoff stacks glumly at his dentist's office (picture at left), which he has packed up to allow him to follow his first love, the tournament golf trail (picture at right)



Salem Clubs Survive First Round Golden Ball Tourney

With the Juniors downing the Roosevelt Cubs, 37-22, and with the undefeated Jayvees beating the Jefferson Optimists, 31-27, Salem's four entries in the Golden Ball tournament of Portland, finished their first round of competition with a perfect slate. The Intermediates and the Salem Sophs had taken their games earlier in the week. Three of the local quints will return for more action Monday night: Intermediate vs. McMinnville. Jayvees at 8 o'clock; Sophs vs. Portland Bartels at 6 and Jayvees vs. Portland Xystos at 7. The Juniors tangle with the Milwaukie Firemen Tuesday evening at 6.

JAYVEES (21) (22) OPTIMISTS
Culbertson 2 F 4 Harris Johnson 13 F 2 Lilly Pasch 4 F 11 Burdick Blaser 2 G 4 Newell Corlan 4 G 2 Wisbaum
Sops: Jayvees, Cummings 2, Optimists, Merlan 2.

JUNIORS (27) (22) ROOSEVELT
Coats 3 F 4 Bell Sloan 4 F 5 Blawo Lair 2 C 7 Phillips Rock 10 C 3 Botter Schuster 2 G 2 Johnson
Sops: Juniors, Girof 4, Huff 2, Lehold 10.

Larkin Whips Billy Graham

New York, March 22 (AP)—Junior Welterweight Champion Tip Larkin still retained today his distinction of not having lost a decision in eight years of ring warfare, although he has been stopped on five occasions over that span.

The Garfield, N. J., campaigner unananimously outpointed Billy Graham, New York east side swatter, in the 10-round feature at Madison Square Garden last night. The defeat was only Graham's third in 71 starts. Larkin weighed 139, Graham 139 1/2.

Semis Drill

The Willamette Amusement company, semi-pro baseball team, Salem's entry in the Oregon State league, will hold another practice session at 2 o'clock Sunday afternoon on Leslie field, reminds Manager Johnny Kolb. The semi-pro outfit was drilling at Sweetland field Saturday afternoon. The State loop schedule will be drawn by representatives of the eight member teams at a meeting to be held in Lebanon Sunday.

Rain Halts Beavers

Riverside, Calif., March 22 (AP) Rain forced cancellation yesterday of the Portland Beaver-San Diego Padre exhibition baseball game. It was the Beavers' second rain-out of the week.

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Holy Cross, CCNY Vie for Eastern Title

New York, March 22 (AP)—Meeting for the first time since December, 1945, Holy Cross and City College battle it out at Madison Square Garden tonight to determine which will represent the East in next Tuesday's battle for the basketball championship of the National Collegiate Athletic association. Holy Cross reached the eastern finals by turning back Navy, 55-47, and CCNY got there the hard way, coming from behind with a 43-point second half rally that upset Wisconsin 70-56. Navy and Wisconsin tangle for third place in the Eastern regionals in tonight's first game at 8 p.m.

There is considerable talk about a special championship game between the winner of Tuesday night's NCAA finale and the winner of the national invitation tournament but nothing official has been announced. Kentucky and Utah collide in the invitation final Monday night.

Babe Golfs!

New York, March 22 (AP)—Babe Ruth's familiar figure was seen on the Bayside country club links yesterday but the Babe didn't attempt to get off any long drives—just a little putting practice. It was the first time he had been on the links since he recently left a hospital.

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1-6 p.m.: Sporting Dogs. (Cockers, Pointers, English Setters, Springers, Retrievers, Labradors, etc.)
6:30 p.m.: Children's Handling Class.
7 p.m.: Parade of Champions.
3 p.m.: Judging of Main Groups and Best Dog in Show.
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