



**Sign Here, Fellows** When Salem Senator baseball players report to their spring training headquarters, the Flor d'Italia hotel at Callisto, Calif., they are greeted by this handsome desk clerk. He is Fele Todeschi, a former Salem Senator himself, who now works with his dad, Fred Todeschi, in operating the Flor d'Italia.

## Kowitz Kriss Kross

By CHRIS KOWITZ, JR., Capital Journal Sports Editor

Why is it that a basketball team of today can go out and score 70 or 75 points in a ball game, when 20 years ago the combined scores of both teams seldom equalled that much? We've heard a lot of theories explaining that question, and we'll probably hear a lot more, but until we find a better one, we'll stick with the explanation given by John Lewis, head basketball coach at Willamette university.

Lewis, who captained the University of Oregon basketball team back when 40 points would win a game, attributes the higher scores of today to a number of things.

It all started, Lewis thinks, with the adoption of the 10-second backcourt limit about 20 years ago. Before that, a team could retain the ball in the backcourt and play keep away almost indefinitely. A time limit of 10 seconds was slipped on backcourt tactics, forcing a team to get the ball down the floor quicker than before. That speeded up the game considerably.



**JOHN LEWIS**  
Head basketball coach at Willamette university.

The center jump went out after each field goal in 1927, quickening the tempo of the game even more. And when the three-second keyhole rule went into effect, the game was speeded up still more. With the center unable to spend his time loafing around under the basket, being forced to move around, he became a more active player, Lewis explains. With the center out of the way, forwards and guards were given more opportunity to drive in for baskets. It all meant more and more speed, higher and higher scores.

"With the game speeded up automatically by those rule changes," says Lewis, "coaches began to stress offense in teaching basketball. And with offense being stressed, scores naturally took another climb."

**One-Handed Shot Quicker, Harder to Stop**

"The use of the one-handed shot in recent years has had a lot to do with the increase in scoring," continues Lewis. "When Stanford's team, with Hank Luisetti, went to Madison Square Garden in 1936, fans and eastern coaches peo-pooed the one-handed shot. It was strictly a Western invention, and the eastern coaches didn't think it practical. Now the one-handed shot is used by every player in the country. It is quicker to shoot and harder to guard than the old fashioned two-handed shot."

**Kids Begin Younger**

"Kids of today are more interested in basketball than they were 15 years ago," Lewis explains further. "Everywhere you go you'll find youngsters shooting away at an old hoop tacked on the side of a garage or a telephone pole. When those youngsters grow up, they are going to be more accurate shooters than the players of yesteryear, who didn't get the feel of a basketball until he was in high school. Fifteen years ago a .300 shooting average for a game was great. Now a .300 average won't win many games." Accurate shooting... one more reason why scores are mounting higher and higher.

**Officiating, 'Modernized,' Too**

Lewis adds a final note by commenting on the officiating. Basketball officials, he believes, have become offense conscious, just like the coaches, players and the game itself. Referees tend to give the advantage to the player on offense.

Add 'em all up and you have the evolution of basketball as seen by John Lewis. Anybody got a better explanation?

**Harlem Win Streak Stopped At 304 Games**

New York (AP)—Their proud string of 304 straight conquests broken, the Harlem Globetrotters headed for Toronto Monday, the second stop on their tour with the College All-Stars.

The two teams are tied at one-game apiece after Sunday's day-night doubleheader in Madison Square Garden. The Trotters won the first game, 70-62, as expected, but the All-Stars, ahead from the start, took the second, 68-65.

**Beavers Won 10, Lost 7 in Training Season**

Glendale (AP)—The Portland Beavers, defeated 6-5 by Los Angeles Sunday, closed their exhibition season with a record of 10 wins, seven losses and one tie.

Highlight of the Sunday game were ninth-inning home

# Spring Training Gets Underway

## Pitching Staff Adds Rookie Right-Hander

Callisto, Calif.—(Special to the Capital Journal)—The 1953 version of the Salem Senators, a favorite conversation topic around Salem for months, came to life in Callisto Monday.

Dick Strongback, rookie right-handed pitcher, was added to the roster just in time to start training.

Strongback is just out of the service, and has played

baseball with the Lucky Lager team of Oakland in the Bay area's fast semi-pro league. Strongback had not yet signed a Salem contract this morning, but will definitely sign sometime Monday afternoon, Manager Hugh Laby said.

Dick Sabatini, second baseman who was signed by Salem as a free agent a few weeks ago when Sabatini got out of the armed services, also checked into camp just in time for Monday's drill.

Jack Hemphill, right-handed pitcher who was with Salem last season, but who has not yet signed his 1953 contract, is expected to arrive Monday afternoon.

"The fact that he's coming here to work out indicates that Jack plans to sign right away,"

go to school. Salem had counted on Thrasher for 100 per cent of the catching duties at spring training, until Sacramento sent a catcher. The Beavers have promised to send a catcher on option to Salem if Sacramento decides to keep Bob Nelson.

Sacramento acquired Nelson from Salem on a 30-day look-back following the 1952 season. The 30 days are about expired, and since Sacramento hasn't used Nelson much in spring training games, Laby is pretty sure that Salem will have Nelson behind the plate again this season.

**World Series Movie Shown at Breakfast Club**

A number of Salem baseball fans got their first chance to see the 1952 World Series movie this morning at the regular weekly meeting of the Salem Breakfast Club.

Deke Walker, business manager of the Salem Senators, showed the movie, in addition to giving a few remarks about the 1953 Salem Solon prospects.

Walker said that the World Series film is available to any civic, fraternal, school or church group, etc., that desires to show it. Walker may be contacted at Waters ball park, phone 3-4647.

## 2500 Sportsmen Visit IWLA Show At Salem Armory

The 1953 show has just ended, and already the sponsoring organization is talking about the 1954 show.

That's the enthusiasm shown by the Salem chapter of the Isaac Walton League of America, whose annual spring sports show was conducted at the Salem armory Saturday and Sunday.

IWLA officials, pleased over the way the show was received by the Willamette Valley populace, plan a bigger and better show for next year.

Hunters and fishers who attended the weekend show were impressed with the variety of displays they found there.

Over 30 exhibitors showed all sorts of outdoor equipment. In addition, there were movies, exhibitions of casting, archery, etc.

Total attendance at the two-day show, held at the Salem armory, was in the vicinity of 2500.

## Four Golfers Enter Playoff At Greensboro

Greensboro, N. C. (AP)—Pro golfer's second mass playoff within a month was on today, this time with the first four prizes in the \$10,000 Greensboro Open Tournament at stake.

Sammy Sneed, Doug Ford, Art Wall, and Earl Stewart were the links quartet that tied at the end of regulation 72 holes yesterday, each with a five-under-par 278. That threw the decision into an 18-hole playoff round starting today.

On March 1, the stars finished in a similar tangle in the Houston Open tournament Cary Middlecoff defeating four other stars, including Stewart, in a playoff.

But today's extra round would not have been necessary if Sneed had been able to hold his early pace. The favored "Slammer" from White Sulphur Springs, W. Va., went in to yesterday's final 36 holes with a two-stroke lead and a clear shot at his fifth victory in this annual meet.

## Whits Defeats WSC

Walla Walla (AP)—Sid Aronson held Washington State College to five hits Saturday as the Whitman Missionaries opened their baseball season with a 3-1 victory over the Cougars. Whitman shoved across three unearned runs in the eighth inning on two walks, a single and an error.

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# SPORTS

LOCAL ★ UNITED PRESS ★ ASSOCIATED PRESS ★ NEWS AND FEATURES  
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## Pacific Coast League Season Starts Tuesday

(Associated Press Sports Writer)

Pacific Coast League baseball teams wound up the exhibition campaign Sunday, will rest up Monday and then will swing into what may be an unusually significant season.

This will be the first test in the league's history when it enjoys "open classification," a degree sandwiched between the major leagues, and a triple-A status.

Gone is the draft by the majors and gone for both is the option rule and working agreements. The year 1953 finds the

## Salem Vikings Play Two Home Baseball Games

Weather permitting, the Salem high school Vikings get their baseball season under way at 3:15 Tuesday afternoon in a game opposite the Molalla Indians at Olinger field at 3:15.

The Salem-Molalla game will be in the nature of a "spring training" game, inasmuch as the teams are from different leagues and from different districts.

Salem's season was scheduled to have opened last Friday at McMinnville, but that game was postponed on account of rain.

The Vikings will play another home game this week. The Lebanon Warriors come to town Friday to do battle with Coach Harold Hauk's Salem clan in a district contest.

## Portland Sends Two Prospects To Victoria

Glendale, Calif. (AP)—Two young prospects were cut loose by the Portland Beavers of the Pacific Coast league today to play for Victoria of the Western International league.

Ben Lorino, southpaw pitcher, who is being returned, and Don Hopp, optioned, departed for the Victoria training quarters in northern California, leaving the Beavers with 25 players still in camp.

Coach John Mauer's University of Florida basketballers have won the Gator Bowl championship both years the tournament has been held.

## Wrestling

**MAIN EVENT**  
Don Kindred vs. Ter Yamato

**SPECIAL EVENT**  
Jack Kiser vs. George Drake

**OPENER**  
Frank James vs. Chester Wallick

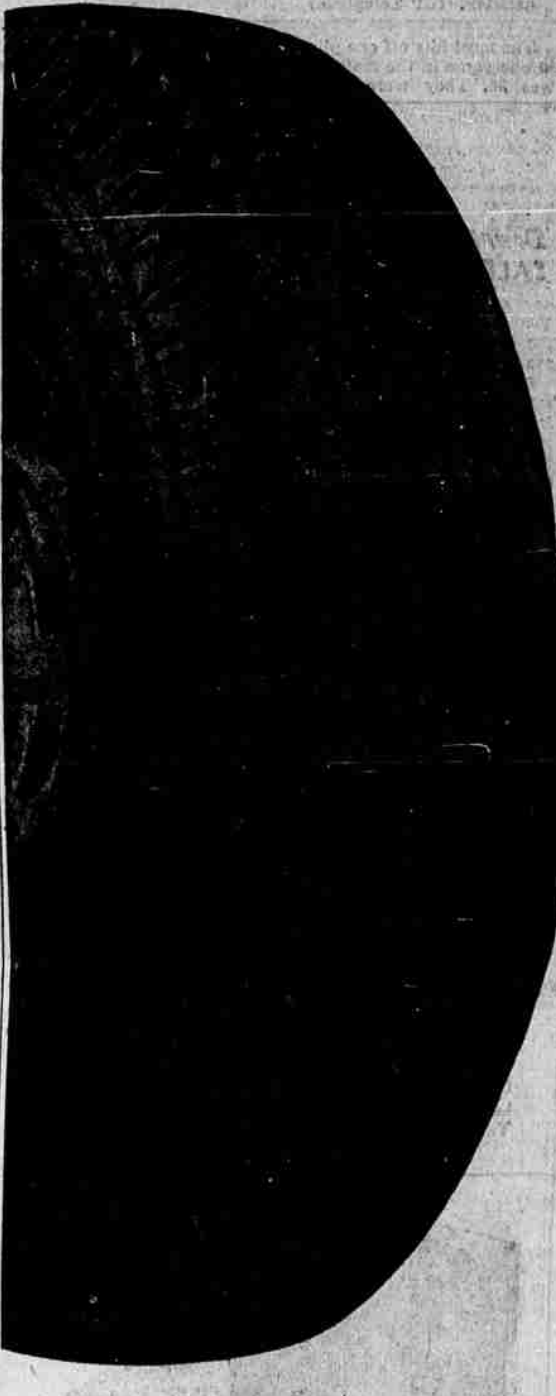
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