

Lithians Resume Pennant Race Here Sunday

GRANTS PASS TO BE TOUGHEST OF FINAL HURDLES

Swinging along in high gear so far on the championship trail, the Ashland Lithians will have to shift into second to get over their next rough spot, the tough and unpredictable Grants Pass Merchants, who will invade the local high school diamond at 2:30 o'clock Sunday afternoon.

Grants Pass is the outfit which administered two hearty laces to the Lithians in the first half of the league schedule and most of the jinx can be laid to a bevy of heavy sluggers including Machado, Ray and Blacksmith, headed by that towheaded rapsallion with the big stick, Chuck Ostrom. Ostrom's most noteworthy stunt so far was the clearing of the bases at Ashland with a home run on a dare from the local bench and he is one of the best men on bases in the league.

For Ashland, although Hardy has carried a heavy load with his spectacular southpaw hurling, a hopped-up hitting attack has furnished a large percentage of the margin by which the locals have won four straight games since the last Merchant encounter which was dropped in a slugfest. Loss of Leavens, who will be away for one week, and Brown, who has dropped baseball due to a siege of bench-warming, will handicap the Lithians to a certain extent but the club will gun for a win on the strength of the smart baseball and pinch hitting of the rest of the nine which was so evident in the Medford game, along with near perfect fielding.

A starting battery of Hardy to McLean will be featured for Ashland with big Bill Kannasto as alternate pitcher and Al Simpson, back after several weeks layoff, in reserve as catcher.

Patterson will be right at home on first base as usual. With the possible departure of Arba Ager—who may take a week-end trip to Portland—Balding will be shifted to third and Durham will start at second. Ted Schopf will plug the shortstop gap where he handled seven chances perfectly last week.

Phil Keeton will be shifted to Leavens' post at center field, Hall will be in right field and probably Kannasto will open in the left pasture, with Hess on deck for utility infield duty and Simpson as first alternate in the outfield as well as behind the bat.

Grants Pass will present a changed lineup also, with Rudy Heyne, St. Louis Browns' property, in the box, and the veteran Al Drolette wearing the strainer back of home base. Hugh Hartman goes to his natural spot at the initial sack under the change and Malcolm McCarthy will play third base. Hallas or Pittman at second base will be likely starters, and Machado, Ray and Ostrom will field the outer gardens.

Once past Grants Pass, the pennant is regarded as a virtual cinch for the Lithians, Crescent City not too tough and Glendale already chalked up as a victim by the locals, who will be intact for the two final games with the return of the vacationing boys from their inconveniently timed trips this week.

Tomato Surplus Sales Planned By Growers

Seeking to alleviate a crop surplus hazard, Rogue River valley tomato growers recently met in Medford, voted to join other western farm groups and elected Earl T. Newbury of Talent as head of a seven-man stabilization committee to ask chain stores in 11 western states to sponsor special canned goods sales, approximately twice the normal carry-over of canned tomatoes being on shelves at present.

Newbury stated that although the surplus of Oregon tomatoes is not serious in itself, the state market is affected by nationwide conditions in the industry.

AND THEN THE FUN BEGAN!



Hunting Out Sports

By LARRY HUNTER

THROUGH the medium of this column Mr. Cliff McLean graciously accepts the apologies of Mr. Billy Hulen for the left-handed mathematical trick which robbed Mr. McLean out of .933 per cent on his batting average—although it is a blow to Mr. McLean and everyone else in Ashland to find out that there is any second-grade kid in Medford with the mentality of a local first-grader. Nevertheless, the Chief is thanking the Lord for all small mercies and Hulen for what is right and just.

As to the Kazowie reference, that pointed to McLean, but it is not written, "Who knows the fit of the shoe so well as the wearer?"

As the line of Ashland complainants forms steadily on the left, the latest squire of Billy Acres is the best darned third-baseman in the league (s' help me!), Arba Ager.

Mr. Ager's grief lies in the fact that he laid down a beautiful squeeze bunt, scoring Balding and, as Smith clutched the ball with gluey fingers in bewilderment, beat it to first base only to discover that, because the Medford infield was relying more on reputation than skill, the clout was called a "sacrifice hit."

It is most discouraging, Mr. Ager not only accounts for a run but he also speeds to first like he is chasing a mechanical rabbit and, although no play is made of the ball and no Medford error is chalked up, finds that there is no single in his stocking. It is enough to make Mr. Ager wonder if it is worthwhile to live a clean, pure life.

However, to give it at least a semblance of a sporting proposition, Mr. Ager says that if anyone can give him a reasonable basis for the ruling he will, in exchange, tell them what the Sphinx wants to know and, as a special added attraction to the offer, what makes the Mona Lisa smile.

Another bit of an Ashland wagger probably could be raised to back the fact that Bob Hardy also can plug breakfast foods better than Larry Pepper, in spite of the fact that he is cursed with the coffee-spilling type of elbow and a wrong-sided hurling arm.

Oh, well, there always is ham-and-eggs even if he can't! And that should make Mr. Gehrig feel better!

Back to Mr. Ager's trouble. On the day following the Crater-Lithian contest the writer took the liberty of writing to L. H. Gregory, sports editor of the Portland Oregonian, for comment on the play.

Ashland does not intend to serve any protest whatsoever, in fact

the records already are officially complete and Ager and Ashland both are reconciled to the fact. Furthermore, it is sincerely believed here that where there are two sides there is room for argument—and if anyone is entitled to a whole-hearted personal opinion the official league scorekeeper is and, like an umpire, has the right to make his opinions stick.

Therefore, in publishing Mr. Gregory's letter (with the description of the play on which his comment is based) it is pointed out here that the Miner does so merely because of interest of the subject and also for the other interesting baseball points covered.

Excerpt of Letter

"In the fourth inning Ashland was at bat, one man was on second, another on third, and there was one out as Arba Ager, third baseman, came to the plate for his turn. He laid down a bunt which went into the infield toward first base, but not far, and Bob Smith, Medford first baseman, came forward to take it, leaving the sack clear. Balding was squeezed home, Hardy advanced from second to third, and Ager took first easily as Smith was unable to beat him to the sack."

Gregory's Reply

"As you describe the play it would have to be a base hit for Ager, for with no one covering first base, obviously the play was a hit, not a sacrifice."

"On plays of this sort it is customary for the second baseman to cover first, letting the first baseman go for the ball. I gather from your description, however, that neither the second baseman nor pitcher was over there and that the first baseman had to make the entire play himself, and failed in his race for the bag. That makes it clearly a hit."

"Had the second baseman been covering (or the pitcher) it could have been a sacrifice even had the first baseman thrown home (and missed his man), provided the scorer figured he had plenty of time to have thrown out the bunt at first base. Then it would have been a fielder's choice sacrifice, indicating by the words 'fielder's choice' that a play was made at another base and failed (not through an error), but that the runner could have been caught at first. This expression 'fielder's choice' is the most misused one in baseball; so many scorers call an ordinary force play at second a fielder's choice, which it is NOT. 'Fielder's choice' is correctly used only when the alternate play fails to get the man out (not through error)."

"To return to your play, the only way it could be called a sacrifice (under your description) is by giving an error to either the pitcher or second baseman for NOT covering first base. And that just isn't done. Understand now, I am NOT to be put in the position of overruling somebody else's official decision, but merely telling you how the play would be scored in the Pacific coast or major leagues under your description."



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ASHLAND DROPS MEDFORD 7 TO 3 TO TAKE LEAD

Medford baseball hopes took a terrific drubbing Sunday at the hands of the championship-bound Ashland Lithians, who won handily by the score of 7-3 behind the five-hit pitching of the local southpaw star, Bob Hardy.

Besides the indignity of dropping back into the 500 per cent class in league standing, Medford saw their reputed "best" infield crack wide open with four errors at crucial points of the game and also witnessed Lithian Leonard Patterson complete 14 putouts at first base, shading to a fare-you-well the day's performance of Bob Smith, who tallied two errors although he is considered to be something of a wizard at the initial corner by Medfordites. Adding injury to insult, Duke Hankinson, Crater third sacker, hurt his ankle while base running and will be lost to his team for the balance of the season.

Altogether, Hardy struck out six Medford men as Larry Pepper accounted for three Ashland whiffs and Jack Hughes, relief pitcher, one while donating seven base hits between them to the local ledger.

Blow By Blow

Schopf, Ager and Patterson filed out quickly in the first inning but Lewis, Rickert and Hoffer met with no better success when Ager, McLean and Balding relayed ground balls to Patterson to end the frame with no hits for either side.

McLean, up first in the second, sent a single into left field and advanced to second on Leavens' sacrifice bunt but Hall's strikeout and Keeton's long fly, which was fielded by Donovan, left him there.

Hankinson grounded out for Medford, Donovan broken even with Keeton when he put a fly into the Lithian fielder's glove, Smith drew a walk, and Sakraida fanned, ending the second.

Jack Balding kept up his reputation as a choosy batter by selecting four called balls for a free trip to first base as the third stanza started. Lewis' first error set Hardy up also and both men advanced a base on Schopf's sacrifice. Arba Ager then laid down a bunt which caught the Medford infield asleep at the switch and beat it to first for a single as Bob Smith clutched the ball in bewilderment and Balding flashed home with the first run. Hardy, who had taken third on the play, also tallied on Patterson's long fly which Hoosier Hoffer barely managed to catch, and Ager got no farther than second when McLean also fled out.

One-two-three again for Acheson, Pepper and Lewis as a fast-moving Ashland infield showed Medford how to field.

Bob Smith's first blunder let Leavens get on first base in the fourth frame, Hall whiffed, and both Leavens and Keeton were put out when the latter's grounder met a warm reception in the hands of Hankinson to Rickert to Smith for a classy double play.

Rickert poked a two-bagger into the outfield for the first Medford hit, Hoffer fled out to Schopf, Hankinson went out, Schopf to Patterson, and Donovan drove a hot single through shortstop to score Rickert. Smith was hit by a pitched ball and took first but the fourth inning ended when Balding made a nice catch of Sakraida's fly.

Balding fanned to open the fifth, Hardy drew a base on balls, Schopf fled out to shortstop and Ager took first on Lewis' second error, but nothing came of the base occupation as Patterson fled out to Rickert. Acheson, Pepper and Lewis went out in quick succession for Medford.

Ashland really went to town in the sixth canto. McLean drew a walk and advanced to third on Leavens' double whereupon Larry Pepper was recalled from the Medford mound with his catcher, Russ Acheson, and Jack Hughes took the box, with Ivan Harrington back of the plate, in time to greet Manager Hall, who made short work of one in the groove and slapped a hot single into right field, scoring both McLean and Leavens. Phil Keeton, next man up, took a free base when struck by a pitched ball. Hall tallied when Balding took first on Smith's second mistake, and a single by Hardy scored both Keeton and Balding. Hardy was caught at second when Schopf made first on a fielder's choice and Ager and Patterson both were fielded out to end the Ashland half of the frame with every man having batted and five runs scored in the process.

After Rickert's out, Hoffer's double to short right field came to naught as he died on second with Hankinson's whiff and Donovan's out.

Hall got his second single off



ABOVE is Danny Savich, former football star at Utah U., who will lock horns with Carlos Rodriguez, the Mexican pepper pot, at Monday night's wrestling card under the arcs at the Medford high school stadium where Frank Clemens also will tackle Sammy Kohen and Toots Estes will meet Jack LaRue. Opening bell will be at 8:30 sharp.

Hughes in the seventh but was caught at second on a fielder's choice of Keeton's grounder to retire the side, McLean and Leavens having fled out to the outfield. Late in the seventh, after Smith had fanned, Harrington took first when struck by a pitch and Hughes hit a single into center field which Leavens bobbled, allowing both men to score, bringing the total to Ashland 7, Medford 3.

No more scoring occurred, although McLean hit another single for Ashland in the ninth and Hankinson made up for a day of failure by clouting the two-bagger which resulted in his removal from the game when he aggravated an old ankle injury sliding into second.

Score by innings: R H E
Ashland002 005 000—7 7 1
Medford000 100 200—3 5 4
Batteries: Hardy to McLean, Pepper, Hughes to Acheson, Harrington.
Umpires: Smith and Hess.

GOLF NOTABLES DUE IN MEDFORD

Golf played by masters of the game will attract many ardent devotees of this area to the Medford course Sunday, August 22, when Robert Tyre (Bobby) Jones, Lawson Little, Horton Smith, Jimmie Thompson and Johnny Dawson will be there to attend dedication ceremonies for the memorial to the late H. Chandler Egan, national champion in 1904-1905 and designer of the Medford course as well as many others throughout the country.

Starting at 10 a. m., a shot-making exhibition will be in progress with Smith, Dawson, Thompson and Little participating.

Actual dedication of the memorial fountain to the memory of the great Medford golfer will take place at 1 p. m. in charge of Jones, famed as the finest golfer of all time.

At 2 p. m. there will be featured an 18-hole match between Jones, Smith, Dawson, Thompson and Little which should furnish plenty of thrills and suspense. Thompson is credited with being the longest driver in golf, Dawson is a famous amateur and the other three are so well known as champions as to require no introduction.

Admission buttons are available in Ashland from Dom Provost, Bob Ingle and Millard Grubb.

HOW THEY STAND

GAMES SUNDAY, AUGUST 8

Grants Pass at Ashland.
Roseburg at Medford.
Crescent City at Glendale.

SOUTHERN OREGON LEAGUE				
Team	W.	L.	Pct.	
Ashland	4	0	1.000	
Crescent City	2	1	.667	
Grants Pass	2	2	.500	
Medford	1	2	.500	
Glendale	1	2	.333	
Roseburg	0	4	.000	

Runs scored by Ashland 32;
by opponents 12.

LITHIAN BATTING AVERAGES				
Player	Ab.	H.	Pct.	
Patterson	45	16	.356	
McLean	34	12	.353	
Schopf	47	15	.310	
Hardy	24	8	.333	
Leavens	47	14	.298	
Ager	44	13	.295	
Hall	22	6	.273	
Balding	39	7	.179	
Keeton	29	5	.170	
Durham	8	1	.125	
Kannasto	1	0	.000	
TEAM AVERAGE	32	12	.279	

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