

First Half Title Hinges on Tonight's Game

CRESCENT CITY, A-T's TO BATTLE HERE SUNDAY

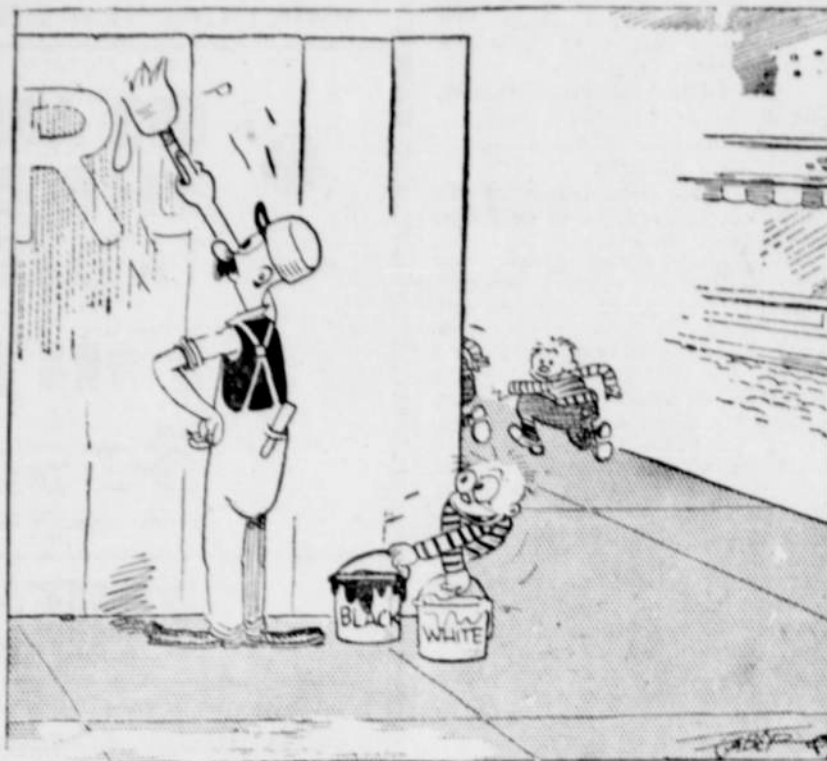
RIDING comfortably atop the Southern Oregon league with nine straight victories and no defeats, Crescent City's Merchants will invade Ashland Sunday in an effort to continue their spotless baseball record at the expense of Manager Charlie Skeeters' Ashland-Talent organization. What will await the Californians will be something less than a brass band and the game on a silver platter, for the A-T's served notice last week-end, in smothering Glendale 18-8, that they are nobody's push-overs. However, the Merchants already know that, having enjoyed the good fortune of lucking out 2-0 over the A-T's in their first meeting at the coast city.

The game, which will get under way at the high school field promptly at 2:30 p. m., is expected to draw the year's biggest gate. A win for Ashland-Talent would be considered an upset by those who did not see the Skeetersmen in action last week, but followers of the local outfit will be of a different mind. "We're due to hit the jackpot," said Skeeters this week, "and I think our strengthened outfit can do 'er against Crescent City. Anyway, we'll give 'em the best ball game they ever sunk a cleat into."

Skeeters probably will start lightning-armed Nig DiSordi on the mound against the Merchants. The black-haired husky held the coast nine to two hits in their previous encounter and will be primed to equal or better his pitching record. Rich Skeeters will be at his usual catching post, when the fireworks start Sunday, and long-armed Tiny Jones will be reaching for them at first base. Probably Bud Neal will be stationed at second base, with Parker Hess on the hot corner. Ted Schopf will get the call at short-patch with Don Montgomery a likely starter in left field where he starred last week-end. In center Darrel Leavens will guard the grounds while Orville Hampel, the scourge of Southern Oregon league pitchers, will take over right field. On the bench will be Pete Montgomery, Eddie Joanis, Greeman and Ed Learning. Reserve pitchers will be Haynes and Combett.

Crescent City will bring here Lefty Mike Koll for the mound work, with Fern receiving. The infield will include Miller at first, Matson at the keystone sack, Ray Deo at third and Loffer on short. Left field will be picketed by Hanscam, center by Framsted, lead-off man, and right by Ray Koll.

AND THEN THE FUN BEGAN!



HINDSIGHT ON SPORTS

By I TOLD YOU SO

WHEN Charlie Skeeters' Ashland-Talent outfit met Glendale on the local lot last Sunday, they gathered in enough runs to last any ordinary club the rest of the season. Final bush league tally stood at the staggering total of 18-8 in favor of the home-towners. Now if the Skeetersmen could just take those extra runs they didn't need and salt 'em down in the bat bag they might come in handy before the end of the season. Pressed for the lead, they could upend the bag, shake out the needed runs and there you are—right into the Shaughnessy play-off!

Speaking of bush league scores, this writer eyed several coast games in hopes of seeing just how bad the boys in the willows would look by comparison. On one occasion the San Francisco Seals were playing a double-header with Seattle and in the first game the Siwashers took the measure of the Seals—with which was one Joe DiMaggio at the time—with final score standing at 16-4. We relaxed a little and decided the sticks weren't too awful. But when the nightcap got under way, whew! The bush league pastures loomed like Yankee stadium!

The Seals came back to score 22 (yes, twenty-two) runs in the first inning! DiMag belted a couple of homers over the left field fence and a double during that frame and his teammates pounded every pitcher King county could muster to the showers. When all the twirlers had been tried and discarded, one by one, the Seattle infield took turns on the rubber. When the manager, along with everybody else in uniform had done his turn and the owner was warming up with the bat boy, the Seals stumbled into a third out because of sore feet.

To top off the classic, final score at end of the game was still 22 to 0. So who are we in the wilds of the underbrush to scoff at an 18-8 pitchers' battle?

It was a decided pleasure to witness a softball battle between the Lions club and Episcopal church boys in the junior circuit one night this week. Talk about hustle and chatter—some of the older boys could learn from the little lads.

Young Don Warren was the winning pitcher when the fracas ended 19-11 in favor of the Lions, but flash of the evening was Jimmy Jandreau, ball hawking 75-pounder covering third base for the clubmen. Jim scoops up the hot ones like a Scotchman grabbing his change and pegs the ball over to first with an arm that belies his size. When he gets set about all fans can see from the gallery is a finger mitt with a couple of legs sticking out from under. The juniors have been playing at the high school field every Tuesday night, starting at 8 o'clock, and if you want a surprisingly pleasant evening, drop out and see what young America can do with a bat and ball.

We hope the A-T's learn a lesson from Medford's experience last Sunday and don't hold a Charlie Skeeters day. The pear snatchers were considerably smeared by Grants Pass despite the hullabaloo and as usual Ray Erickson finished out a fine day on the mound after the Hoffard favorites had lost the game by being pitted for eight runs and most of the 17 hits in first two frames. Erickson is Medford's best pitcher and should be start-

LENDALE GETS 18-8 SURPRISE

Glendale's Loggers, remembering the 16-0 shellacking administered to Ashland-Talent in their first meeting in the mill village, tripped into town last Sunday with light hearts and designs on the league standings. When the rain of baseballs was over Glendale had been smothered 18-8 by a hard-hitting, hustling A-T outfit bent on sweet revenge.

Things looked pretty bad for Charlie Skeeters' lads in the first when two hits and an error produced three Glendale runs. The local defenders made a stand in their half of the opener when Schopf belted the first pitch of Sporer for a homer in right center, but it was not until the third frame that the A-T's took over the advantage when three runs were coiled from four hits, a walk and a hit batsman. The attack hoisted Sporer to the bench and Merle Johnson took over. Behind 4 to 3 in the first of the fourth, the Loggers blasted in three more to take over briefly until the A-T power could get up to bat in the second half, when two passes and three hits by Hess, Hampel and Don Montgomery produced four more counters. Glendale was able to reach pay dirt but twice more off the fast slants of Frank DiSordi, who went in the sixth and then cut loose with an eight-run barrage in the seventh to remove any doubt.

Hitting star of the afternoon was the newly-signed Medford release, Hampel, who hit safely four times in five trips. D. Montgomery followed with three safeties in three chances—all in the clutches. Glendale's best plate power came from Beicher, who doubled and singled in four times at bat.

Score by innings: R H E
Glendale300 300 200—8 8 2
A-T103 402 80x—18 17 3

Dodgers Blush, Bow In Grudge Tilt With Triumphant Rogues

Manager Johnny Daugherty's Rogues made it an "I-told-you-so" game Friday night when they met their bitterest verbal rivals, the Dodgers of Parker Hess, in an unofficial game. Final count was 14 to 10 for the Rogues.

The Hessmen took the lead in the first inning when Murphy got aboard on the first of Shortstop Roberson's five errors and came home on Barksdale's double. The Rogues scored at least once in every inning while the Dodgers were unable to shake off butterfly-finger plays long enough for their efforts at bat to count.

Score by innings: R H E
Rogues111 244 1—14 10 6
Dodgers033 000 4—10 11 7

In the second so-called "game" of the evening the Miner Press outfit fumbled and frittered a 15-5 victory to the Murphy Irish of the Grants Pass league. Ten walks by Pitchers Rose, O'Toole and Ardis Warren helped the Murphy men rub it in. Ten errors also lengthened the score against the Printers while the visiting Climaxers committed but one wrong.

Score by innings: R H E
Murphy192 030 0—15 11 1
Miner Press030 000 2—5 6 10

ing the games, if the finishing of them is any indication. But then of course he's a local boy there whose father is an official of the club. And if the son of an official starts a game, it can be nothing but parental pressure, even if he is the best pitcher.

This broken-armed Rathke, phooey! Billy Hulen can outpitch that guy, and Hooligan has to grunt to lift a ping-pong ball. Furlong, Medford's other moundman, should have Not as his first name.

MINER WIN WILL THROW TEAMS IN FIRST PLACE TIE

HOW THEY STAND

Team	W	L	Pct.
Dodgers	7	2	.778
Miner Press	6	3	.667
Rogues	5	5	.500
Elks	4	5	.445
Pine Box	4	6	.400
Talent	3	6	.333

WITH final brace of games in the first-half race on tonight's menu, the Ashland softball league has reached the point where at least two managers have been spending sleepless nights and gaunt days worrying about the outcome. Parker Hess, Dodger pilot, has been taking bats to bed with him and Manager Leonard Hall of the Miner Press has been observed gnawing on pencil stubs and leaving his pie untouched. Occasion for the fretting is the "crosshul" game at 9 o'clock tonight which may decide the first-half champion between the Dodgers and Miner Press.

Should the Printers win, the result will throw them into a deadlock for the first half title but if the Hessmen emerge triumphant, the Typesetters will have to console themselves with resolutions concerning the second half race, winner of which will play the first-half top outfit to decide the city championship. The Dodgers have won seven and lost two games while the Miners dropped three and won six.

Hess indicated last night that he would start either Kenny Harris, Charlie Warren or himself on the mound, with Baughman receiving, Jones at first, Bud Neal on second, Buzz Roberson short and Hess on third. Powers, Miller, Schilling and resting pitchers will make up the outfield.

For the Miner Press, Rose will start on the rubber with Coleman back of the plate, Ardis Warren on first, Jack Bentley on second, Bud Silver, short, and Darby O'Toole at third. Outfield probably will be peopled by Gordon Alphonse, Ernest Francis, Harry Pendleton, Marion Mann or Ben Tanner. Bert Larsen also will be on hand to act as relief catcher.

In the opening game tonight, starting at 8 o'clock, Elks and Talent teams will be anxious to emerge victorious, as the result will mean a three-way tie with Pine Box for fourth place if Talent wins, or a tie for third place between the Elks and Rogues if the Clubmen take the contest.

The Elks, as one of the most rapidly improving outfits in the circuit, have been coming from behind steadily while other teams were losing their early footings, and Pitcher Bill Tallis is expected to give the Talentites a busy evening. However, Hungate's deliveries Wednesday night against the topnotch Dodgers indicated that purple-clad batsmen will enjoy no picnic.

Tonight's first-half finals are expected to bring out the season's largest crowd with interest, betting and booing at a new high.

MINERS AND ELKS BEST BOXERS AND ROGUES MONDAY

The Miner Press avenged an earlier defeat at the hands of Bob Flaharty's Pine Box nine in the opening game Monday night when they ran up the greatest margin of victory yet seen in city softball league play. Final score at end of the sixth inning when the game was called stood at 22 to 8 in favor of the Printers.

The Boxers were handicapped, however, by illness which had weakened Pitcher Bud Woodward, who was driven from the rubber in the second frame by a nine-run attack. Charlie Jandreau windmilled at the Miner batsmen until the sixth, when Woodward again took over. Jandreau yielded eight tallies. The Pressmen had strengthened their lineup considerably by the addition of Ray Coleman, catcher, and Gordon Alphonse, fielder, a pair of outstanding Hiit players.

Rose, pitching for the Miners, allowed but six hits scattered in the third, fourth and sixth stanzas, but walked seven. The win definitely put the Miner Press in the running for first-half championship while the Boxers were shunted into a four-way tie for third place.

Score by innings: R H E
Pine Box005 300—8 6 7
Miner Press092 155—22 16 2

In the second game of the evening the up-and-coming Elks team knocked over the Rogues 9 to 5 in a fast, interesting game. Six errors at crucial moments by Rogues fielders proved costly, while Tallis for the Lodgemen whiffed nine to help. Barksdale and Ausland gave but five safe hits to the winners but gave out eight free passes. Home runs by Daugherty—who qualified for one of his free cravats—and Kannasto highlighted the game.

Score by innings: R H E
Elks410 400 0—9 5 2
Rogues030 000 2—5 10 6

Bob Kennaston Will Try Tangles With Toots Estes Monday

The former junior heavyweight champion, Bob Kennaston, returns to the Medford armory arena Monday night, July 17, to meet Toots Estes, who won from Dick Trout last week. Also on the three all-star match will be Bulldog Jackson facing Bobby Wagner, and Otis Clingman will square off with Dick Trout.

Just which pair of wrestlers would get the top spot had not been decided by Promoter Mack Lillard last night, but he indicated the flip of a coin would settle the point Monday night.

Ernie Peterson, who wrestled Wagner last week, will act as referee at the matches, first of which will get under way at 8:30 p. m.

'Hollywood Finish' Climaxes Rogues-Pine Box Battle

Ashland softball fans were treated to an unusually exciting pair of games at the high school field Wednesday night when the Dodgers downed Talent 7 to 5 and the Rogues made a circus-finish win over the never-die Pine Box nine, final count ending 13-12. A close decision at first base on the last play of the second game gave fans an extra thrill when, with two away, Gregory hit a hot one to Shortstop Moore to send the tying run across home if the Box man could make it to first. In a photo finish at the all-important bag Umpire Curly Crease lofted his thumb to end the game amid mingled shouts and groans. It was the season's biggest moment.

In the first game Wednesday night errors by day-dreaming infielders gave the Dodgers the winning margin, although Talent was in the running until Hess sighed as the last man went down.

Score by innings: R H E
Talent001 400 0—5 8 5
Dodgers124 000 x—7 8 5

The Rogues-Pine Box game got away to a lop-sided beginning when the Rogues, first up, saw base by virtue of a pair of walks but could not convert. The Boxers used their half for the game's first score and took the field to yield one counter for the Daugherties.

In the last of the second, however, the Shookmen found the offerings of Ausland for four hits, used a walk and five errors to produce seven runs. That ended their scoring until the sixth, when another was pushed across, with three more being added in the seventh when, behind 9 to 13, they made a desperate comeback try falling short by inches after Reedy had started off the frame by reaching first on an error, Pitcher Woodward had walked, Bergstrom got aboard through a fielder's choice-error combination, and Jandreau had singled to score Reedy. Brown then grounded to first and Bella, new recruit, made himself a hero when he tripled to score Bergstrom and Jandreau—score 13-12. It was then that Gregory lacked a half-step at first base to send the game into extra innings.

Score by innings: R H E
Rogues010 135 3—13 7 10
Pine Box170 001 3—12 11 3

LOGGING TRUCK BURNS
A truck and trailer, loaded with logs bound for a Medford mill, was completely destroyed by fire of an unknown origin Wednesday afternoon on East Main street. The truck was owned by Charles Skeeters, Ashland and Talent contractor. City fire equipment extinguished the blaze.

ASKS CAMP RENT CUT
J. F. Keeney, lessee of Lithia park auto camp, Tuesday night asked park board officials to reduce yearly rental from \$1000 to \$500 in a new five-year lease. Keeney offered to spend \$500 annually on improvements to the buildings.

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HOW THEY STAND!

SOUTHERN OREGON LEAGUE

Team	W	L	Pct.
Crescent City	8	1	.889
Grants Pass	7	2	.778
Medford	6	3	.667
Dorris	4	4	.500
Glendale	4	5	.444
Klamath Falls	3	5	.375
A-T	3	6	.333
Gold Hill	0	9	.000

Games Last Sunday
At Medford 4, Grants Pass 9.
At Ashland 18, Glendale 8.
At Gold Hill 9, Dorris 13.
At Klamath Falls 3, Crescent City 7 (played July 2).

SIGN THREE TEACHERS
Ashland school board members Tuesday night selected three primary teachers to fill leave of absence vacancies at Lincoln school during the coming year. They are Miss LaVada Reid, Miss Clara Verhasset and Miss Frances Becker.

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