

Far West Baseball Season Opens Wednesday Night

By Hank Green

"The most successful year in Far West baseball league history" will open Wednesday evening with the Medford Rogues playing their 1950 opener at Pittsburg, Cal., and the other six teams playing in California towns.

League President Jerry Donovan and other league officials have termed 1950 as potentially, at least, the most successful season in the three-year history of the league.

They have cited the addition of Reno, Nev., and Eugene, Ore., to the loop as not only adding materially to greater interest among the fans and therefore larger crowds but also to the probable closeness of the race among all eight teams.

More Help Coming
Medford probably will be weak at two or three positions when the Rogues start at Pittsburg and this may continue through the first week or two but Business Manager Mel Carpenter has assured local fans that strength is being and will be added as long as needed.

The local club obviously needs at least one more outfielder, possibly two, one veteran pitcher, a first baseman and possibly a catcher. A catcher may not be needed if negotiations for the purchase of Milt Martin, formerly with the Medford Dodgers, are successful.

Speed in the centerfield post is vitally necessary and that is not apparent with the present crop of Rogues candidates. Buckley in left field while slow is a heavy hitter and Williams in right field can hit hard and is a good fielder.

Pitching Big Question
The local pitching staff is a big question with the need of at least one veteran hurler obviously necessary. Negotiations for one have been going on for some weeks but none has materialized as yet. The hurling staff probably will not be settled for some time.

Medford's infield except for first base seems settled with Bolen at third, Stewart at short, Manager Tommy Nelson at second and either Lohbeck or a new player on first base.

Redding will have power at bat and probably average pitching. Marysville does not look any stronger than Medford. Eugene will be powerful at bat, Klamath perhaps has more power than Medford but pitching is little better, and Reno seems weak.

Willows and Pittsburg have reported little this spring and so little is known about either squad.

Given some good pitching, one or two more heavy hitters and a first baseman Medford should be among the top four teams.

The Rogues open their season in Medford on Tuesday evening, May 2, against the Marysville Braves. Before coming here they play three games at Pittsburg (Wednesday, Thursday and Friday) and then go to Reno for three games (Saturday and two on Sunday) before coming here.

Medford's Far West league entry will be in Medford against the Braves May 2, 3 and 4 and here against the Willows Cardinals May 5, 6 and a doubleheader on May 7.

Pratesi To Face Allen
Flyweight Title Bout
London, Apr. 25—(U.P.)—Hawaii's Dado Marino seemed left in the cold today as Honore Pratesi of France prepared to meet Terry Allen of Britain tonight for the world's flyweight boxing championship.

The American National Boxing association has asked the British board of boxing control to consider Marino along with Pratesi and Allen in a three-way tournament for the championship vacated last month by Rinty Monaghan of Ireland.

All Star Card!

WRESTLING

Thursday Night

BOUTS START 8:30 p.m.



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SPORTS

Bartle Best Oregon Open Salem Hitter

Salem, Ore., Apr. 25—(U.P.)—Dick Bartle lofted a foul fly into the stands behind the Vancouver dugout in the first game of Sunday's doubleheader here for one of the wildest "plys" of the season at Waters park.

One of the concession boys "caught" the ball in a big basket of cracker jack—then spent some time picking up the spilled boxes.

Incidentally Bartle, Salem first baseman who was with Medford of the Far West league last season, has been going great guns at bat this year. He leads the Senator batting list, with 11 hits out of 20 tries for an average of .550. He went hitless in Sunday's opener, which Salem won 1 to 0, and got one for three in the nightcap.

Belcastro to Oppose Bell

Pete Belcastro, provoked because he didn't get his requested shot at Leo Wallick, will go against Ted Bell, Brooklyn smoothie, in the middle match of Mack Lillard's three-pley wrestling card at the armory Thursday night.

Belcastro, who has yet to meet Wallick, watched him in action last week and promptly informed Lillard that he would like nothing better than a chance to subdue the Chicago roughneck.

Lillard said he passed up the Belcastro-Wallick skirmish for the time being in order to fulfill a request from Lee Grable for a rematch with the pile driver.

Harold (Blood and Guts) Davidson, always a favorite with Medford fans, will take on fast and clever George Strickland, Denver flash, in the opener, starting at 8:30 p. m.

Eugene Edges Redding In Practice Tilt, 6-5

Redding, Cal., Apr. 25—(U.P.)—The Eugene, Ore., Larks nosed out the Redding Browns 6 to 5 in an exhibition baseball game here Monday.

The Browns, trailing since the fourth inning, loaded the bases in the last half of the ninth, scoring two runs before their side was retired.

Both teams are members of the Far West league. Redding opens its league play Wednesday at Willows, Cal.

PCL Pitching Weakest In History of Circuit

San Francisco, Apr. 25—(U.P.)—Pitching, as offered by the crop of moundmen during the first four weeks of play in the Pacific Coast league, is the weakest in the circuit's history.

There is some talk that the balk rule, which has resulted in 178 balks being called through games of April 22, is the cause of the hill trouble.

In any event, the records show that up to now PCL moundmen have issued 785 walks in comparison with only 703 strikeouts.

Last Year's Record
Good hurlers usually strike out about one-third more men than they walk.

Last year in the PCL, the moundmen struck out 6,108, compared with 5,327 walks—not a great record but much better than the boys are doing in 1950. At the present rate of walks and strikeouts, PCL moundmen will walk 5,495 men in 1950 while striking out only 4,921.

Meanwhile, the batters who get a chance to look at some new offerings this week, have been having a lot of fun. Already they've clouted 108 home runs; there are 33 men batting .300 or better—and fellows who usually have a tough time getting the bat off their shoulders are whaling the horsehide to all corners of the lot.

Managers, from league-leading Hollywood right down to cellar-dwelling Seattle are yelling for competent throwers. It could be that the days of balance in the PCL are gone—it's definitely a "hitter's league" right now.

San Francisco, which has played San Diego and Sacramento only for its first 28 games, tangles this week with the Oakland outfit that has met only Portland and Seattle. San Diego, which has played only San Francisco and Los Angeles, entertains Seattle.

Los Angeles plays host to cross-town rivals, Hollywood, and Portland invades Sacramento.

Oregon Open Golf Results

Portland, Ore., Apr. 25—(U.P.)—Harold West, Tualatin Country club, held a two-stroke lead today after the opening 18-holes of the annual Oregon open golf tournament. His card of 67 yesterday was five under par.

Three other entries were tied for second with 69's, including Chuck Congdon, Tacoma, and two Oregon amateurs, Johnny Frey, Riverside Golf and Country club, and Neil Stater, Royal Oaks Country club, Vancouver, Wash.

Other first round scores included: Dick Yost, Oregon State college, 70; Frank Duden, Eastmoreland, 70; Frank Newell, Tacoma, 70; Ed (Porky) Oliver, Seattle, 71; Al Zimmerman, Alderwood, 71; Dick Estey, Vancouver college, 71; Joe Mozell, Lloyd's, 71; Ted Longworth, Waverley, 72.

Among the Oregon players were the other scorers: Don Provost, Medford, 73; Ray Honsberger, Klamath Falls, 77; Jerry Peters, Coos Bay, 78, and Joe Steiger, Coos Bay, 79.

Fleming Paces PCL With RBI's

San Francisco, Apr. 25—(U.P.)—Les (Fireplug) Fleming, San Francisco first baseman, is batting at only a .225 rate but he leads the Pacific Coast league in the all-important division of runs-batted-in with 28 on 22 hits in 25 games.

According to statistics, including games of April 22, Max West, San Diego outfielder, tops the hitting department among the regulars with a big .411 mark on 22 hits in 56 trips to the plate.

Elbie Fletcher, Los Angeles first sacker, has the most hits, 35, and Joe Brovia, Portland, and Steve Souchock, Sacramento, are tied for homerun leadership with five each.

Huskies Capture Win Over Oregon

Eugene, Ore., Apr. 25—(U.P.)—The University of Washington Huskies won a Pacific Coast conference northern division baseball game from the University of Oregon here Monday, 4-2, with the aid of three unearned runs.

Washington got two runs in the fifth on an error and Bill Andring's homer. Two more runs were scored in the eighth and ninth innings on bad Oregon throws.

Oregon got its two runs on nine hits but five Webfoot errors aided in the Husky victory.

Motorcycles Race Sunday Local Track

Broadsliders from up and down the Pacific coast converge upon the Valley View track, two miles north of Ashland Sunday, April 30, to compete in the largest motorcycle racing program in southern Oregon.

Riders young and old, 100 strong, will be aiming for top honors in the three divisions, novice, amateur and expert, before a capacity crowd which is expected.

The races, sponsored by the Rogue River Rambler Motorcycle club, and sanctioned by the American Motorcycle association of Columbus, O., will be classified as flat track, since they will be run off on a race track of at least 15 feet in width and having two straightaways besides the broadsliding corners.

Rated Dust Free
This track is of granite surface making it almost free from dust and from the opinions of the riders it is the finest track on the west coast.

An abundance of top notch riders have promised to be here along with several "newcomers," the latter out to earn their spurs on the Pacific coast circuit racing schedule. Local competition will also run high as the riders in this vicinity have gone all out to try and hold their place on the home track.

All eyes will be on Eugene Thiesen, Eugene, a leading contender in the expert class, having just returned from Daytona Beach, Fla., where he placed in the 200 mile road race, a national held there in February.

Pro Cagers New League

Chicago, Apr. 25—(U.P.)—A return to bitter bidding for players in a war for survival between two basketball leagues was in prospect today after the National Basketball association pitched out three teams who promptly formed a new circuit.

The NBA, offering a four-point program for peaceful departure of Denver, Sheboygan and Waterloo from membership, said it was turned down and expelled them.

But representatives of the three teams joined with Oshkosh, a former NBA member, to become the nucleus of a new league which they planned to name sometime in the next 10 days.

The new group hired as commissioner, Doxie Moore, commissioner of the old National Basketball league which died a year ago in a merger with the Basketball Association of America.

Willamette Now Leads Conference

Willamette University of Salem took over leadership in the Northwest conference baseball title chase Tuesday after drubbing college of Idaho 6-1, and 11-6, in a doubleheader at Caldwell Monday.

College of Idaho went deeper into the conference cellar with the twin losses, now having absorbed five straight defeats.

Linfield moved into third spot at Walla Walla by splitting another doubleheader with Whitman. Whitman barged in front with a 5-0 win in the opener, but Linfield came back with a 4-2 nightcap victory.

Second place holder Lewis and Clark and Pacific were idle.

Newbry Slated Speak Banquet for Rogues; Opening Day Planned

Oregon Secretary of State Earl T. Newbry, Ashland, will speak at the banquet in honor of the Medford Rogues at the local YMCA Monday night, May 1, and will officiate at opening night ceremonies the next evening, it was announced at the Athletics Booster club meeting last night.

Dinner will be served in the upstairs room at the Y starting at 6 p.m. with the affair open to men and women. A. Z. "Tubby" Dean will be master of ceremonies and an entertainment is being planned. Reservations may be made by calling Dean or President Les Stamper.

Albany High-Grid Mentor Goes to OTI

Klamath Falls, Ore., Apr. 25—(U.P.)—Rex Hunsaker, Albany high school athletic director and football coach, has been appointed head football coach at Oregon Technical institute here. Director Winston Purvine confirmed today.

Purvine said also that Art Kirkland, Hunsaker's assistant coach at Albany, will be backing-up football coach for the OTI Owls. They will take over their duties here in July.

OTI has been without a football coach since the resignation of Dale Laughtery. The school is a member of the newly-formed Oregon Intercollegiate conference.

Also Baseball Coach

"We chose Hunsaker just as much because of his many recommendations for his own character excellence as for his outstanding football record at Albany," Purvine said.

Hunsaker also will coach baseball and both he and Kirkland will assist in an extensive off-season intramural sports program. Forrest (Skeets) O'Connell is director of athletics and Kirkland will give OTI a three-man athletic staff.

Stan Czech, Albany line coach for the past two years, is slated to take over Hunsaker's football job at Albany.

STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE		
Team	W	L
Detroit	4	1
New York	3	2
Cleveland	3	2
Washington	3	2
Philadelphia	3	2
St. Louis	2	3
Boston	3	5
Chicago	1	4

NATIONAL LEAGUE		
Team	W	L
Chicago	5	1
Brooklyn	4	1
Boston	4	2
Philadelphia	4	3
St. Louis	2	4
New York	0	4
Cincinnati	0	5

COAST LEAGUE		
Team	W	L
Hollywood	10	6
San Diego	17	11
San Francisco	15	12
Oakland	12	12
Portland	12	13
Los Angeles	13	13
Sacramento	10	17
Seattle	6	18

BASEBALL		
Team	W	L
Washington 3, Boston 0		
New York at Philadelphia postponed, rain		
Cleveland at Chicago postponed, rain		
Detroit at St. Louis postponed, rain		

NATIONAL LEAGUE		
Team	W	L
St. Louis 1, Cincinnati 0		
Brooklyn 6, Boston 4		
Philadelphia at New York postponed, rain		

MAJOR LEAGUE STANDINGS (SECOND HALF FINALS)		
Team	W	L
Valley Music Company	41	22
E. H. Mann Company	39	24
Chalkers	36	27
Charles Barber Shop	31	32
Morning Fresh Bakery	30	33
Walker Real Estate	27	36
Bates Candy Company	27	36
Domestic Laundry	21	42

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Graziano Kos Boxing foe In Comeback

New Haven, Conn., Apr. 25—(U.P.)—Rocky Graziano, 162, who was a tiger with fists when he took the world middleweight title from Tony Zale in 1947, posted another comeback victory today but it was strictly the tabby cat type.

The ex-middleweight king from Brooklyn, N. Y., knocked out Danny Williams, 166, of Detroit, in the third round of their scheduled 10-rounder last night. The bout was so one-sided that spectators were happy to see it end.

Williams was down in the first and second rounds but was saved by the bell each time. Graziano, no ball of fire himself, improved his timing in the third.

While Williams was poking his feeble left at Graziano midway in the round, the Rock hit him on the jaw with what appeared to be a zipling right hook. The blow ended the match. It took the Detroit boxer's seconds about three minutes to revive him.

Playground Aid Committee Is Named By Club

Steps to help Medford youth take part in a summer playground program were taken last night the Athletics Booster club of Southern Oregon when a committee was appointed to confer with Norm Worthley, park recreation director, and the city council to see what the club could do.

Club members pointed out that so far the organization had been largely interested in getting the Medford Rogues of the Far West Baseball league off to a successful start but that the club was not just interested in that sport but in promoting all local athletics.

One officer suggested part of Hawthorne park (along Bear creek) be set aside for a baseball diamond so the Summer Baseball school could conduct part of its activities there. He pointed out that as of now few east side children attend the school at the senior high.

Another club official brought up the question of how the group could help promote local softball. No action was taken on this matter as no one from the local softball association was present to outline what might be done.

El Centro Wins 5 to 4 In Sunset League Tilt

Riverside dropped a game to El Centro last night and thereby left Mexicali in sole possession of first place in the Sunset league.

The Imperials unleashed a five-run barrage in the first two innings to defeat the Dons, 5 to 4. It was El Centro's first victory in its four-game series with the Dons.

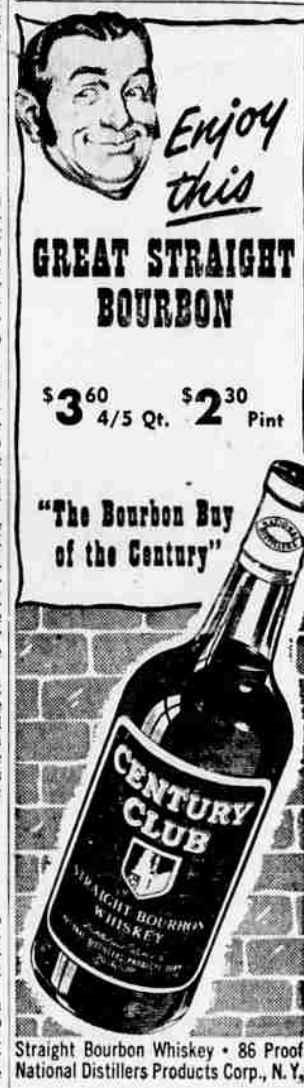
Ring Champ Sought Here

Larry Burdette, matchmaker for the Southern Oregon Boxing club, said today he has opened negotiations with Herb Carlson, kinsman on the University of Idaho boxing team and national intercollegiate boxing champion four times in succession, to headline the next local card.

Date of the show will depend on ability to line up Carlson or some other outstanding attraction.

Burdette said he had attempted to secure Wes Echols, national AAU middleweight champion, to meet Carlson for the undisputed national amateur championship but Echols is immediately turning professional and is not interested in the match.

Bull Halsey, young Portland Negro who is currently a hot attraction here, probably would oppose Carlson in the event the Idaho Vandal accepts the match, Burdette said.



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