

Will Far West Baseball League Be Revived? Majors Interested

By HARRY CHIPMAN
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Will the Far West league be reorganized and, if so, will Medford be in it?

That question has been kicked around by baseball fans here now for over a year and still nothing has been done either toward getting the league reorganized or securing a franchise for Medford.

Major league baseball interests are anxious to have a class D league on the west coast. At the present time they have no place to send professional baseball beginners signed on the west coast where they will be kept close to home. The nearest class D league is in Oklahoma. Interest expressed.

Many in professional baseball have expressed great interest in a class D league in Oregon, dipping into northern California as far as Redding if necessary. They insist that the league will have to be more compact than the now disbanded circuit, which stretched from Eugene in the north to Pittsburg and Santa Rosa, Calif., in the south. The travel was too great for a club of such classification to bear financially, they point out.

Talk currently is going around that Medford, Klamath Falls, Eugene, Coos Bay-North Bend, Albany, Roseburg, Bend and Grants Pass could be drawn into a league. Travel would be short under such an arrangement, a primary requisite. A week's home stand seems to be too long for the population in the smaller towns to stand, therefore, in a compact league teams could be moved oftener without working too great a hardship on them financially.

Majors Would Help
The majors, in conversation, have expressed a willingness to help such a league, both financially and with players. However, the majors can't be expected to move into a city and erect a baseball park, put up money for operation of a team, and send in players. Outright ownership by major league teams of Far West league franchises seems to be out. Therefore, ownership would have to be on a local basis.

An arrangement would have to be worked out by some of the towns in the old league to clear their debts incurred in past operations before they would be permitted, under baseball law to reenter a new setup.

Parks, of course, are as essential as a team itself. Use of the present Fairgrounds park

here would be out as far as any assistance by a major league club would be concerned.

Box Seats Necessary

Baseball men stopping here say it would be necessary to erect some box seats behind home plate and, preferably, to have them covered. The present bleachers could be used along the first and third base lines as bleachers. It would also be necessary to erect adequate dressing room facilities for both home and visiting teams as well as umpire facilities. Improvement in the parking area also would be necessary, they said. The field itself and the present lighting would be acceptable though the lighting isn't the best to be found in lower classification baseball.

Jerry Donovan, San Francisco, who played a big part in organization of the Far West league and who has carried it close to his heart since, is anxious to see it revived. Donovan was president of the league during its operation and at present is president of the California State league. He has attempted to interest Pacific Coast league clubs in operation of the Far West league, but at present, has not met with too much success. San Francisco Seals, however, did have a working agreement with Medford during the last year of the old league.

Coast League Has Troubles
However, most Coast league clubs are having financial worries of their own without going out looking for more. It seems that major league interest is the

only answer to revival of professional baseball hereabouts. Most of the clubs in the defunct league operated on a stockholder basis, which didn't seem too satisfactory. However, there are several possibilities seen whereby the league can be revived.

It has been suggested that several lumber firms in the interested cities could go together to sponsor a team in their respective cities, much the same as the Southwestern Oregon league now operates. Or, in Medford, either the lumber interest or fruit interests, or both, could combine to back the team.

If handled correctly, it seems that the publicity value of such an arrangement would be great and the tax deduction value should not be overlooked.

New League Certain

Major league baseball interests are going to start a class D league on the west coast. They would like to revive the Far West league much on the same basis as has been mentioned — a compact Oregon circuit — but if something isn't done pretty soon to start the ball rolling, they will turn to the populous southern California area for their league and Oregon will be left out. There are insufficient players to operate two class D leagues on the coast.

It seems that if Oregon — and Medford — are to be included in professional baseball, somebody should take the bull by the horns and do something. The major leagues aren't known to wait around forever.

SPORTS

Cheney Studs Drop Two Games To Bandon; Take Over SWO League Cellar

SOUTHWEST OREGON LEAGUE				
Team	W.	L.	Pct.	GB
Drain	5	2	.750	
Coquille	5	3	.625	1
Roseburg	6	4	.600	1
Coos Bay-North Bend				
Bandon	4	4	.500	2
Brookings	4	4	.500	2
Medford	3	5	.375	3
	2	8	.200	5

The Medford Cheney Studs

dropped deep into the Southwest Oregon baseball league cellar over the week end by dropping two games to Bandon. The host Bandon took the first game 4 to 3, and the second 6 to 2.

Jack Cooney was the hitting star for Medford in the first game as he banged out a home run and a single. His fourmaster into the centerfield stands in the third inning brought in two Medford runs.

Bill Burger of the Bandon nine collected an inside the park home run. Other standout hitters for Bandon in the first game were Cal McIven, with 3 for 4, including a double, and Fred Haller, with 3 for 5, including a double and a triple.

An error and three hits gave Medford its only two runs in the final game. They were unearned, coming after two were out in the ninth inning.

Roseburg split a pair of league games with Drain's league leaders. Roseburg took the first contest, 8 to 2, and dropped the Sunday game, 5 to 2, with Drain manager Roy Helser doing the hurling.

Coquille and Brookings split a league series in a doubleheader Sunday at Brookings. Coquille won the first contest, 7 to 3, and Brookings nabbed the abbreviated seven-inning nightcap 10 to 6.

The Coos Bay-North Bend nine swamped Silverton's Red Sox in a pair of exhibition games. The coast nine took the first game, 10 to 1, and then ran wild in the second contest to take a 16 to 9 victory.

LINE SCORES:
Medford 002 000 010—3 7 1
Bandon 011 000 20X—4 10 4
Gehrmann and Roelandt; Franks and Burger.
Medford 000 000 002—2 8 4
Bandon 101 100 12X—6 8 3
Fagan and Roelandt; Masters and Burger.
Roseburg 010 160 000—8 10 4
Drain 011 000 000—2 9 1
Bartow and Koepf; Peterson, Percy (5), Hanauka (6) and Beard.
Roseburg 000 000 020—2 7 2
Drain 002 210 00X—5 10 2
Coen and Koepf; Helser and Beard.
Coquille 100 420 000—7 13 0
Brookings 001 010 010—3 9 1
Mihasek and Allison; Selsor, Coleman (5) and Smith.
Coquille 211 002 0—6 X X
Brookings 014 230 X—10 X X
Henderson, Gilson (5) Bilberry (6) and Allison; Gehrmann, Astin (6) and Smith.
(Exhibition Games)
Silverton 000 000 100—1 4 6
C. Bay-N. Bend 300 001 40X—10 14 1
Sauvain, Buchheit (2), Bourbonnais (8) and Roth; Bishop and Segura.
Silverton 000 000 000—0 3 4
C. Bay-N. Bend 302 613 01X—16 23 0
Bourbonnais, Feller (4) Hattenberg (8) and Hander; Rocky and Segura. Witte (7).

WIN ABC OPENERS
Portland—(U.P.)—Archer Blower and Pipe downed Warrenton 10-1 and Norgan's Beavers defeated an American Legion all-star team 8-0 last night in opening games of the 1953 Oregon ABC tournament.

The American Legion was organized and granted a charter by Congress in September, 1919.

E. Seismore Garners Win At Ashland

Ashland — Staving off a last lap challenge from Bob Radke, A-21, Elmer Seismore, M-46, drove to his first main event victory of the Ashland Speedway season Saturday night.

The main event was another close event with nine cars in contention in late laps.

Bernie Miller, M-86, worked his way through the pack to take second place with Larry Leigh, A-50, winding up in fourth spot.

In the semi-main, Ben DeHaven, A-8, was again victorious after he took the lead away from Bob Jenkins, M-22, on the final lap. Stubby Frye, driving a car labeled P-U, was third.

The semi-main produced the most spectacular mishap as Bill Taylor, driving A-33 was nudged in front of the grandstand, went out of control and went flying over the protective barrier at the starting line. His car went 12 feet off the ground but landed on all four wheels and the driver was able to continue the race.

More than 1400 fans, the third largest crowd of the season, witnessed the first "destruction derby" presented on the Speedway track. The winner was Johnny Sprague, driving a Stevens Motors-sponsored Ford, with which he had previously won at the Jackson County Speedway.

Johnny Wyncoupe, A-1, scored an easy 10-length victory in the trophy dash and was trailed by Wayne Lemley, A-57, and Chuck Zarka, A-100. Wyncoupe had won the second heat; Lemley the third and Zarka the fourth.

Lou Kurz, M-71, who won the first heat, broke a valve in that race and was unable to enter the dash.

Milt Gorden of Central Point, A-44, drove to a victory in the final heat with Roy Deutschman, R-80, second and Mack Lehman, A-5, third.

Dead line for Sunday Classified is noon Saturdays.

House of David, Studs Mix Tonight At Fairgrounds

The hilarious antics of Bobo Nickerson and the all-around good playing of his teammates will be featured at the Fairgrounds park tonight when the



BOBO NICKERSON
Pitcher and Clown

bearded and original House of David baseball team stops off on its annual visit to clash with the Medford Cheney Studs. Game time is at 8 o'clock.

Nickerson, who never fails to leave the fans "rolling in the aisles," never plans his clowning act but improvises as the game goes along. He has been known to use first base as a pillow, coach from third base while standing on his head and chin himself on the scoreboard.

His antics in ball parks across the country have drawn high praise and he has been compared above the established baseball clowns by many men in professional baseball.

Pepper Game Highlight
Another highlight of the game will be the House of David team's famed pepper ball game in which they use real and imaginary baseballs in a lively

throwing and catching demonstration. The exhibition, as well as the team itself, again is being led by veteran George Anderson, only member of the Benton Harbor, Mich., cult now with the team. Anderson is a versatile player who, in his younger years (he's now 44) used to spend one inning at each position. Now he plays mostly at first base but is always on hand to fill in wherever he might be needed.

Anderson emphasizes that no players are allowed to join the Davids who are not in good standing with organized baseball. During their spring training period many youngsters ask for tryouts with the whiskered crew and none are refused. Many of today's famous baseball players got their start with the House of David, Anderson says.

Usual Stud Lineup
Meanwhile, Manager Paul (Hoosier) Hoffard of the Studs expects to field his usual lineup in an attempt to score his second victory in less than a week over a traveling club. Last

RVCC Golfers Defeat Eugene, 4 1/2 to 14 1/2

Rogue Valley Country club golfers trounced Eugene Country club, 4 1/2 to 14 1/2 in team competition here yesterday.

Dom Provost Jr. led the way for the Rogue Valley team with a sizzling 67, to take three points from Eugene's Skip Naber. Rogue Valley Pro Al Williams defeated Eugene Pro Wendle Wood, 3 to 2, and Eddie Simmons came back strong on the second nine to down Harvey Hixon, 2 to 1.

SCORING:
Al Williams (M) 3, Wendle Wood (E) 0; Eddie Simmons (M) 3, Harvey Hixon (E) 1; Dom Provost Jr. (M) 3, Skip Naber (E) 0; Jack Lewis (M) 3, Richy Miller (E) 0.
Harry Millette (M) 3, George Schweizer (E) 0; Holding Norberg (E) 2 1/2, Bob Phillips (M) 1 1/2; Everett McGraw (M) 3, L. L. Poritt (E) 0; Jim Snider (M) 3, Stu DeBerry (E) 0.
Clayton Lewis (M) 2 1/2, Frank Riggs (E) 1 1/2; Steve Kraus (E) 2 1/2, Felix Cecot (M) 1 1/2; Jack Kerr (E) 3, Dick Knight (M) 0; Brad Broyles (M) 3, Bud Nagler (E) 0.
Carl Moore (E) 2, Buzz Davies (M) 1; Bob Rector (M) 3, Les Pierce (E) 0; Mahr Reymers (M) 3, Ed Sigmund (E) 0; Bill Hartman (M) 3, Jack Bossi (E) 0.

Thursday the Studs surprised everyone with a 7 to 5 victory over the Cuban Monarchs. It is probable that Terry Maddox, youthful right hander, will get the pitching call against the cultist nine. Maddox hurled a good game against the Cubans until he tired in the closing innings and gave way to Elliott Fagan.

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(E) 0. Fred Sears (M) 3, Bruce Pringley (E) 0; Gus Johnson (E) 2 1/2; Dr. William Miller (M) 1 1/2; Miles Doran (M) 2 1/2; Jack Coleman (E) 1 1/2; William McAllister (M) 3, Dr. Paul Hemphill (E) 0.

Veterans!

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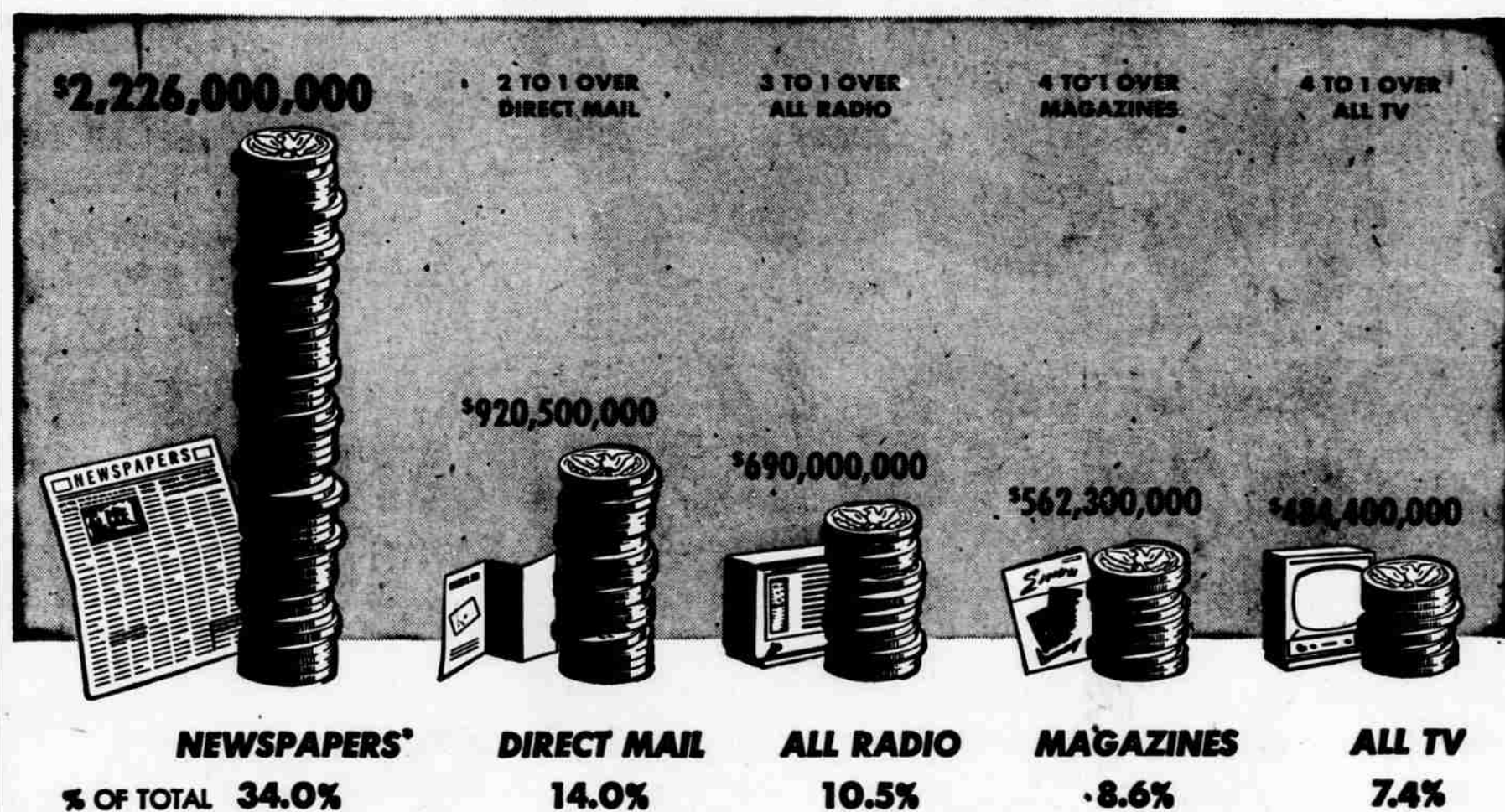
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