

MEDFORD MAIL TRIBUNE

SPORTS

Tornado Nips Bulldogs
59-56 in Thriller Mix

A big wind can blow in a number of ways and that was never more true of the Black Tornado Saturday night as the up and coming Medford high basketball aggregation turned back one of the mostly highly regarded prep clubs in the state, the North Bend Bulldogs, 59 to 56 on the local school's court.

But the degrees of the breeze turned a seemingly one-sided scramble into a nip and tuck, stirring and intense struggle right down to the final buzzer. And it was a real entertainer for the fans.

Medford's Tornado, in fashioning its fourth triumph in five conflicts this season, stormed to wide leads in the first half and in the third quarter. But it "blew" both advantages than finished with a gusty performance which didn't have the issue settled until the closing seconds. Larry Copple's field goal with 70 seconds to go and Jerry Kalapus's free shot with nine seconds on the clock smashed a 56-all tie and gave Medford its final margin.

Whirlwind
For three-fourths of the first half the Medford performance was superb while the North Bend quint couldn't seem to get going. In that opening portion of the fracas the Tornado was an offensive whirlwind, running and driving hard, getting a lot of good shots and making them. Medford also dominated the backboards and the game had all the appearances of a runaway.

After an early 2-all tie, Peterson, Copple, Kastner and Frank Rector combined with a variety of shots for a 12 to 3 Medford margin. Kalapus, who put in seven free throws without a miss, got four of them while Rector, Copple and Peterson rang up field goals for Medford. Woolstenhulme King, and Bill Rush got fielders for the visitors and the bulge was 20 to 9. After Woolstenhulme put in a charity toss, Peterson whirled and got a jumper for Medford. That set the count at 22 to 10 for the first quarter.

Medford widened its margins to two 16 point situations of 28 to 16 and 31 to 15 in the second quarter as Rector, Kalapus and Peterson contributed to the total. LeRoy King with a pair of free shots cut the Medford gap to 31 to 17.

Complexion Changes
With 4½ minutes to go in the half, Peterson charged with his third foul, was called to the Medford bench. It was at that point that the complexion of the game changed. Sparked by the floor play of King a 5-foot 5-inch shorty guard and the shooting of Dick Woolstenhulme, the Bulldogs caught fire and began to click. The Black Tornado at the same time began to function erratically, passing wildly on offense and lapsing on defense. North Bend took full advantage.

Woolstenhulme with three field goals set the pace as North Bend surged. Dave Hartley piled up five points and Shanley got two. A tip in shot and a fast break bucket by Rector were all Medford could produce in four minutes and at halftime the points 35 to 30.

Medford was somewhat its former self as the second half opened. Copple tallied on a tip off play. Peterson and Rector added field goals and the Medford lead was 11 points 41 to 30 with less than a minute played. But in the next three minutes the Bulldogs came back with 12 straight points, while holding the Tornado scoreless, and took their first lead in the scrape at 42 to 41. Free shots did most of the damage. Al Van Leuven sank four, King and Huddy Schopman each two and goals put North Bend on top.

Rector Fouls Out
The lead changed hands five times after North Bend first took it and the count was knotted four times. Peterson, seconds after the Bulldogs went ahead, put Medford back on top 43 to 42. Schepman then made it 44 to 43 for North Bend. Kalapus tied it with a free toss. Schepman put the Bulldogs in front with a jumper 46 to 44. But Copple broke in to knot the fray again.

King gave North Bend the lead for the start of the hectic final panel. He scored from the field with 17 seconds left in the third quarter, busting the deadlock. The count going into the final session was 48 to 47 for the Bulldogs after Copple of Medford, fouled by Woolstenhulme, sank one of two free throw tries after the third period buzzer.

It didn't stay that way long. Fifteen seconds into the con-

cluder chukker, Ed McCullough, potted two free shots, one tying the game and the other putting Medford on top 49 to 48. Willard Reeve came back with a hook cast for a 50 to 49 Bulldog margin but Bud Kastner found the net for Medford and Copple followed for another field goal on a fine assist from Jerry Kalapus. It was 53 for Medford and the Tornado didn't trail again.

Glenn Peterson then fouled out with about 4½ minutes left to play and Lloyd Cearley replaced him. Reeve plopped in the gifter but Kalapus got one for Medford for a 54 to 51 standing. It was 54 to 53 when Jack Shanley connected for a goal for NB but Cearley swished one from the corner for a 56 to 53 count.

North Bend's defense pressed and Copple was tooted down for charging. Shanley made both free ones for a 56 to 55 situation. Two and one-half minutes were left to play. The Bulldogs broke up the Medford offense and the muscular Reeve boomed in for what seemed a sure goal. But McCullough's foul stopped him. With 2¼ minutes remaining Reeves was awarded two shots. He missed the first and flipped in the second for a 56-all tie.

Medford players were more cautious as they brought the ball down the court this time. They turned to ball control waiting for a sure shot, and they got it. With 70 seconds left, Copple broke through the key, took a perfect pass from Kastner and deftly looped the ball in from under the bucket. Medford was in front 58 to 56.

In the last moments Kastner, Copple and Kalapus all checked field shots of the desperate Bulldogs. There was tense six or seven seconds for the home crew, when with 13 seconds on the board the clock refused to run. Medford clung to the ball and with nine seconds to go Reeve, in his fifth infraction, fouled Kalapus under the hoop. The tall Medford forward made one and missed the other.

While the Tornado encountered passing and defensive troubles, its field shooting was great. Medford put in 22 field free shot attempts with Kalapus getting 10 out of 16.

The Medfordites also dominated the boards in the overall picture. They had control in the early part of the game and it was about even after that. Kalapus retrieved 13, Kastner seven and Peterson six of Medford's 31.

Kastner also turned in a fine job of guarding burly Willard Reeve, one of the Bulldogs scoring start. Reeve got only one field goal against Medford. He tallied 18 points against Grants Pass on Friday. Kastner was charged with only one foul.

BOX SCORE:
Medford f g ft pf tp
Kastner, f 2 0 0 5 12
Peterson, f 2 0 0 5 12
Kalapus, c 1 10 3 12
L. Copple, g 2 2 3 10
Rector, f 0 0 0 0 0
Foust, g 0 0 0 0 0
McCullough, f 0 0 0 0 0
Cochran, f 0 0 0 0 0
Cearley, f 1 0 0 2
22 15 18 59

North Bend f g ft pf tp
Reeve, f 1 2 5 4
Rush, f 1 0 1 4 13
Woolstenhulme, c 6 1 4 13
Schepman, g 3 5 2 11
Shanley, g 2 0 0 0 4
Hartley, f 1 1 2 3 3
Why, f 0 0 0 0 0
King, f 4 4 1 12
Van Leuven, f 0 4 1 4
19 18 17 56

Grants Pass
Trips Eagles

Eagle Point — Eagle Point high's battling basketball crew had the edge on the backboards here Saturday night but could not muster quite enough shooting power as it dropped a 51 to 40 decision to the Grants Pass Cavemen.

The Eagles outrebounded Grants Pass 37 to 32 and had a 14 to nine advantage at the foul line but the Cavemen were best from the field with 21 goals to 13. Grants Pass had a 382 average from the field and Eagle Point an even .250.

Jim Reid was top point producer with 17 for the Cavemen. Harvey Nelson put in 12 for the Eagles. Quarter scores favored Grants Pass 11 to 8, 28 to 14 and 37 to 24.

LINE-UPS:
Grants Pass 51
Reese 6 f 40 Eagle Point
Erickson 6 f 12 8 Cave
Burr 6 c 5 Caldwell
Reid 17 g 5 Tuttle
James 9 g 7 Bitterling
Substitutions—For Grants Pass: A. Drews 2, M. Drews, Mendenhall 11, Henderson, for Eagle Point, Christian, Greb 5, Wyatt, Friend.

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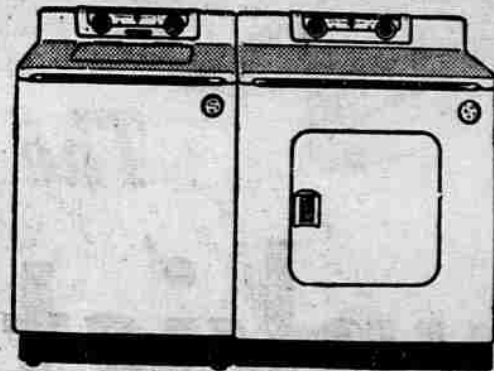
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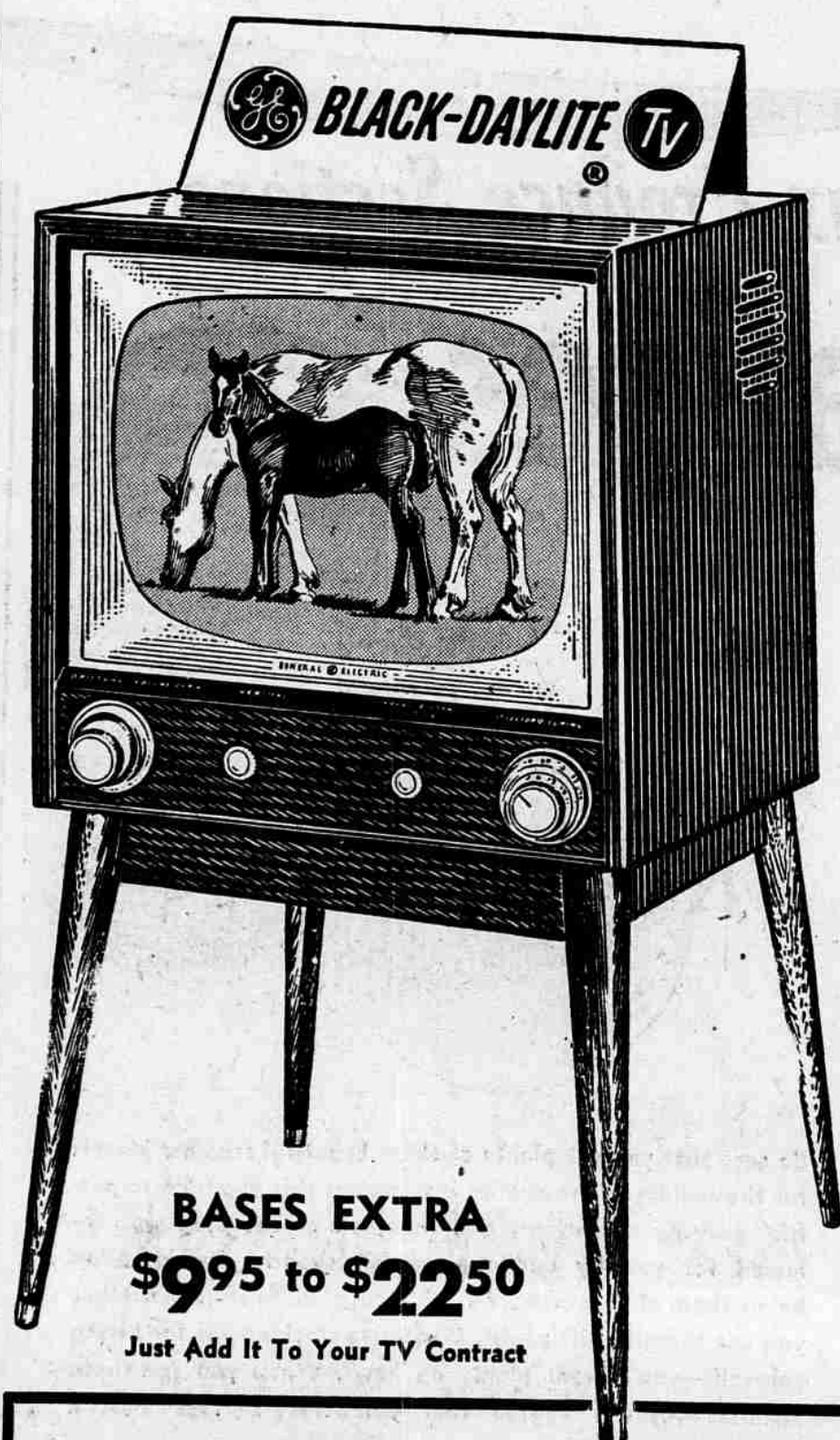
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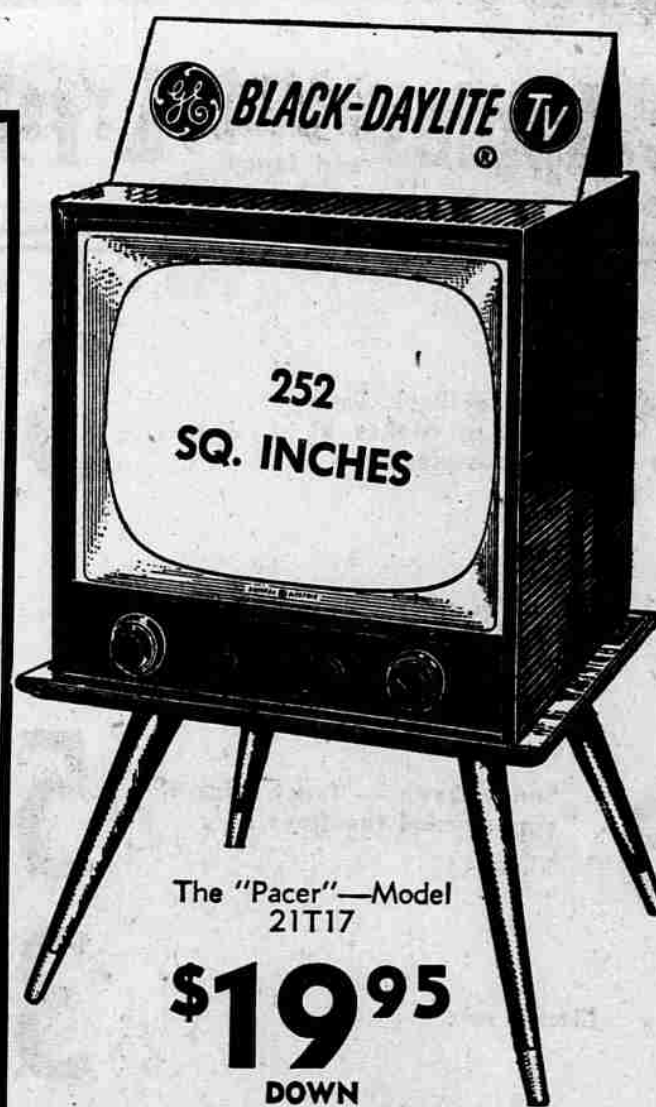
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