Medford, St. Mary's Gridders, RVCC Golfers Shine During 1954

Tornado Continues Power In Track; Talent Athletes Take Honors in 2 Sports

Ascendancy of Medford and St. Mary's highs as gridiron powers, prominence of Rogue Valley Country club players in golf, three state tournaments, Medford high's continued power in track and its strength in tennis, Talent high's state B baseball cotitle and its participation in the state B basketball tourney, formation of the Medford Police Athletic league, opening of a new bowling alley, participation by Rogue valley sportsmen in the rehabilitation of Diamond lake and a new emphasis in semi-pro baseball—Those were the highlights in 1954 on the local sports scene.

In a year filled with many interesting and noteworthy events in which local athletes and sportsmen took part, the Medford high football team rose to heights, after several lean years, to record six straight victories, capture Southern Oregon Conference and district championships and play in the state quarter-finals, losing to Marshfield.

Medford football also produced probably the thrill of the year when Halfback Alton Stone intercepted a pass and ran 102 yards for the winning touchdown against Grants Pass. Black Tornado rise was recognized by the selection of Stone and End Bud Kastner to the Portland Oregonians all-state second team by choice of six Medfordites on the all-conference team.

St. Mary's under new Coach Ed Hummel won its first county B conference and district grid togas, was unbeaten in six games before bowing to Moro in state quarter-finals and placed five on the county all-star.

In golf the Medford links produced its share of champions and near champions in 1954. Eddie Simmons won the Oregon Golf association match play tourney held here. George Harrington was low amateur in the Phoenix, Ariz., open and winner of the Roseburg amateur. Phil Getchell was runner-up in the Western amateur and Southern Oregon tournaments and played on the Stanford university and Northwest Morse cup teams. Dom Provost Jr., longtime contender and club champion, won the men's Southern Oregon title, downing Getchell in the finals. Sue DeVoe lost her state junior crown but replaced Helen Davies as Southern Oregon and RV club champ and had a share of the California junior mixed foursome title. Tom MacLeod was among the top seven or eight in the National Amputee tourney and the Medford high links team was third in Oregon.

OGA play here was over a revamped and toughened Rogue Valley links. The renovation was a major sports development here. Other state tourneys here were the AAU boxing event, in which Bobby Lyons, Medford, took the 105-pound crown, and the Oregon shoot of the Pacific International trapshooting association in which Sam Samson, Medford, won the 16-yard A class.

There were many other competitions. Major ones were Southern Oregon Golf; Rogue Valley Retriever club points trial; Oregon PGA pro-am in which Larry Butler and Simmons, Medford, took honors; the Emigrant lake regatta in which Bill Berry and Frank Grover won events; two Southern Oregon college basketball tournaments won by Talent high and Gold Beach and the Mail Tribune trapshoot dominated by Dick Skeeters.

Medford high in track lacked many individual stars but as a team was potent, winning the Rogue and Hayward (metro division) relays and district meets and 10th state crown. The Tornado tennis team lost only to Roseburg; Stan Kalapus in singles and Don West and Don Robinson in doubles won district laurels and Kalapus was a state semi-finalist.

Talent high in baseball won the county, district and inter-district B school play-offs and was declared state co-champ with Verboort when rain prevented a final tourney game. In basketball the Bulldogs were county and district winners and consolation finalists in the state tourney with Jim McAbee making second team all-state.

Medford Police Athletic league organized over a period of months, took over the boxing activities of the former Rogue Boxing club and secured gym quarters in the Acme Hardware store building. Membership was opened to any boy interested.

Move of Medford Bowling lanes to brand new quarters on North Riverside ave., gave Medford one of the best bowling layouts in Oregon. The expanded facility resulted in wider interest and greater participation in the sport and increased kegling league activity.

Many Rogue valley sportsmen assisted Game Commission personnel in September in the project to rid Diamond lake of trash fish. All fish were killed and the lake is to be restocked.

Semi - pro baseball saw the Southern Oregon League replace the Southwestern Oregon League. Men with pro experience were limited. Medford Cheney Studs adopted a youth movement which it is hoped will pay-off in years to come. Drain continued to rule as it did in the SWOL.

Team champions in various sports included:

Basketball—Grants Pass high, Southern Oregon conference and district; Crater high, Little Six; Crater, Illinois Valley, Myrtle Creek (tied) JDJ League; Andy's Jewelers, Medford Independent Basketball League and AAU district. Medford ninth grade was unbeaten.

Track—Crater, JDJ League; Rogue River, county and district B.

Baseball—Grants Pass high, Southern Oregon conference, district, interdistrict; Crater high, JDJ League, subdistrict; Butte Falls, Rogue Valley League; Medford A, pee wee division; Grants Pass, pee wee, and Ashland, cub, Southern Oregon junior league; Medford junior American Legion, district; Jorgensen's dairy, Medford Softball association regular season; Lithia Motors, MSA play-offs.

Football—Crater high, Rogue League; Ashland, A-2 sub-district, by vote after tie with Crater.

In archery Russ Howard, Medford, and Joe Williamson, Central Point won state instinctive championships and in water skiing Lon Skinner won a California title.

JANUARY

Jim Engberg new president Rogue River Ramblers Motorcycle club . . . Medford high wrestlers lose to Grants Pass, Klamath Falls, Roseburg (2) . . . Medford high basketball team loses to Klamath Falls (2), splits with Grants Pass, beats Ashland (2), Southern Oregon college junior varsity; Frank Rector's last moment baskets beat Grants Pass, Ashland . . . Rod Witham new commodore of Western Speedboat association . . . Winners, city bowling tourney: E. H. Mann Co., team; Marshall Brown singles, all-events; Harold Vessey, Jack Gardner, doubles; Harlem Clowns won crowd, defeat Dean's Pontiac hoopmen; Al Williams, Medford, among top 20 in first round of Bing Crosby golf tourney . . . Norm Chapman, Medford high, Howard Morris, Crater, on state squad of Shrine all-star football game in August; Bob Steele, Medford, alternate; Norm Bean, Rogue River, picked for B East-West game . . . Rogue Archers present program to aid March of Dimes . . . Phoenix high stuns JDJ hoop league by tipping Crater . . . Grants Pass first, Klamath Falls second, Medford third, Ashland fourth at halfway mark of Southern Oregon Conference . . . Talent whips St. Mary's to take lone county B loop lead; Andy's Jewelers head MIBL; Eagle Point leads JDJ; Jackie Puscas TKO's Jim Walker quickly, Amos Lincoln decisions John Burrell in March of Dimes fight card here; Jerry Jennings, Larry Lewis, Rogue Boxing club win bouts . . .

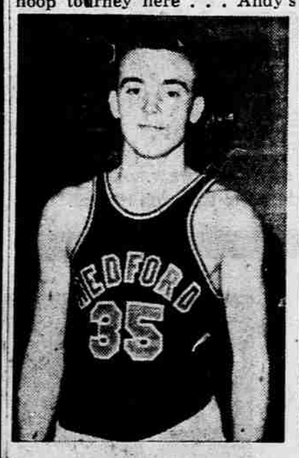
PREP FOOTBALL STANDOUT — Alton (Rocky) Stone, above, paced the Medford high district champion Black Tornado statistically in a number of departments, was unanimous choice on the All-Southern Oregon Conference team, and was named a second team all-stater. His 102-yard run on a pass interception for Medford's winning touchdown against Grants Pass was the sports thrill of the year here.

MEDFORD MAIL TRIBUNE

SPORTS

FEBRUARY

Jack Moad named Medford Athlete of 1953 in March of Dimes poll . . . George Harrington, Medford, low amateur in Phoenix golf open . . . E. W. Pease reelected Medford Gun club president . . . Medford high wrestlers defeat Illinois Valley, Grants Pass, lose to Klamath Falls; Charles Brooks, Bob Reaves, Medford, qualify for state wrestling tourney . . . Medford high cagers, beat Marshfield (2), Klamath Falls (2), lose to Grants Pass (2), split with Ashland; Grants Pass clinches Southern Oregon conference . . . Medford high state hoop champs of 1924 honored at Marshfield game; present were Coach Prink Callison, Eddie Demmer, Clare Williams, Mervyn Chastain, Gilbert Knips, A. C. Allan, Harold Reichstein, Glen Fabrick . . . Jackson junior varsity, Roosevelt varsity city grade school basketball champions . . . Norm Chapman, Medford center, gets honorable mention on Wigwam Wiseman prep football All-American . . . Eugene wins district YMCA hoop tourney here . . . Andy's Jewelers wins Medford Independent Basketball League regular season and play-off crowns, beats Rogue River for AAU district toga but declines state tourney trip . . . First Baptist Senior Church League basketball champ . . . Medford ninth grade hoopmen unbeaten in 11-game season . . . Talent Jackson County B League cage champion . . . Crater, Illinois Valley, Myrtle Creek tie for JDJ League hoop title; Crater wins Little Six tourney for subdistrict basketball championship . . . Early spring trapshoot top guns: Saturday—George Blum, 16-yard; Stan Short, doubles; Eugene Krewson, handicap; Sunday—Charles Skeeters, Forest Solomon, Bud Cloake, 16-yard; Harold Wooley, handicap; John Williner, doubles.



GEORGE HUBER
All-SO. Conference Cager

PHIL GETCHELL
Western Am Runner-Up

MARCH

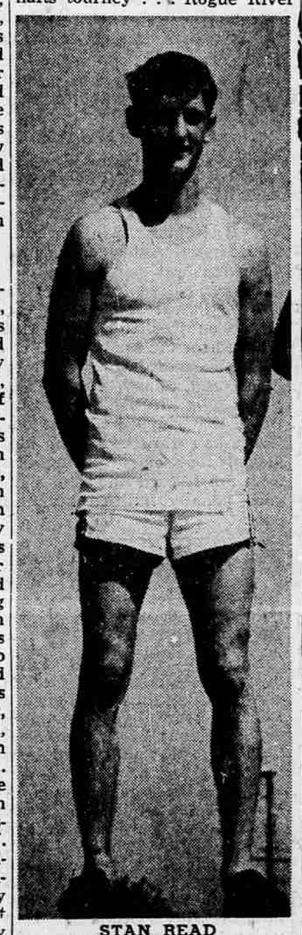
Ted Tenney, Ashland, Gary Sutphin, Grants Pass, Southern Oregon Conference hoop scoring champs; Willard Lilly heads Medford in league frays, George Huber for season . . . Central Point wins basketball tourney for grade teams in high school districts . . . Wilson Barnes, Myrtle Creek, Bill Caldwell, Eagle Point, Gordon Carrigan and Larry Bigham, Crater and Mel Barton, Illinois Valley, JDJ League hoop all-stars . . . Jim McAbee, Jack Barrett, Talent, Gary Johnson, Rogue River, Stan Read, St. Mary's, and Bob Gemaehlich, Jacksonville, county B hoop all stars . . . Grants Pass high defeats Crater two out of three for district basketball title . . . Talent high tops Malin for B district toga, loses to Elgin, beats Mill City, loses to Knappa in state tourney; Jim McAbee second team all-state . . . Ike Staples named president of Oregon Golf association . . . Jack Puscas beats Jimmie Walker, John Burrell beats Amos Lincoln in boxing card here, Jerry Jennings, Bobby Lyons, Larry Lewis, Bob Apple win for Rogue Boxing club . . . Norton Smith cards hole-in-one in spring golf handicap . . . Tom MacLeod chief announcer for broadcasts of Class A state prep basketball tourney . . . Sam Dean, Bill Hansen, Gary Sutphin, Grants Pass, George Huber, Medford, and Ted Tenney, Ashland, on Mail Tribune All-Southern Oregon Conference basketball team . . . Harry Heidenreich Jr., Medford, tops field in indoor sectional rifle tourney, Ashland team high . . . St. Mary's high fourth in Southern Oregon college hoop tourney won by Gold Beach . . . Southern Oregon Baseball league, semi-pro, formed by Medford, Grants Pass, Roseburg, Brookings; Don E. Faber, Central Point, president; succeeds Southwestern Oregon League . . . George Porter chairman Medford state athletic commission . . . Clarence Mellbye to manage Medford Cheney Studs baseball team; Studs to accent youth . . . Joe Allison, Rogue River, sectional pistol tourney winner; Medford team first . . . John Langford, Larry Butler win Oregon PGA pro-am here; Ed Hogan, pro, Ed Simmons, amateur, low individual cards . . . Ed Oldfield, Rogue Valley club assistant, named pro at Roseburg Country club . . . Winners Rogue Valley Retriever club points trial; Sprig of Swinomish, open all-age; Riptide, qualifying stake; Bracken's High Flyer, derby; Oakcreek's Freemont, amateur . . . Dick Skeeters high overall, wins Rogue Valley hundred, Saturday doubles, Tribune trophy, Medford handicap in Mail Tribune trapshoot; loses Sunday doubles to John Simpson by coin flip . . . Bobby Lyons, Medford beats Lee Roberts for 105 crown in state AAU boxing meet here; other winners: Lloyd Louie, Hugh Minsker, Lou Johnson, Larry Richards, Kenny Kent, Carlton Lincoln, Frank Fleming, Ray Hoskins, Jim Quick, Amos Lincoln; Jack Puscas named AAU outstanding fighter of year . . . Ben Fagone, Medford, named to state AAU boxing committee . . . Eagle Point, Crater, Illinois Valley, Phoenix to form new prep athletic loop for next school year . . . Homer Sullivan, Medford, Oak Knoll spring golf handicap winner . . . Medford high defeats Crater in baseball.

APRIL

Medford high baseballers defeat Ashland, Crater, Yreka, split with Klamath Falls, loses to Grants Pass (3) . . . Medford junior high wins five-way relay track meet . . . Al Williams, Medford, loses in semi-finals of Oregon PGA tourney . . . Medford tennis team defeats Grants Pass (3), Ashland (2), Klamath Falls, Shasta high . . . Bill Berry, Frank Grover win events in Western speedboat association regatta Emigrant lake . . . Wally Larson in hurdles, Eldon Francis in javelin sets Medford junior high track records . . . Medford high wins Rogue relays, setting four records; George Huber high jumps four inches over his height. Medford wins metro class Hayward relays; sets broad jump mark; Ashland, Illinois Valley second in A, B divisions, Henley second in C . . . Drain, Coquille accepted in Southern Oregon Baseball League . . . Crater wraps up JDJ League baseball crown unbeaten with win over Myrtle Creek . . . Justin Smith Sr. defeats W. W. Deakins Sr., for spring golf handicap title at Rogue Valley Country club . . . Wayne Gillaspey hurls no-hitter for Eagle Point high . . . Roosevelt wins all-city grade school track meet, taking A and C classes and medley . . . Medford Lions club finances installation of softball diamond at Hawthorne park . . . Crater high JDJ League track champ . . . Medford high trackmen down Shasta high, Ashland . . . Eagle Point, Illinois Valley, Crater, Phoenix highs name athletic circuit Rogue League . . . Louis Fisher high overall and doubles winner in zone trapshoot here; 16-yard honors won by Forest Solomon, Gordon Miller, Eugene Krowson, L. Shepard, handicaps by Harold Wooley, Harry Elden, Tom Mehl Jr. . . . Bowling league winners: Delta Stars, Copco; Darling Real Estate, Commercial . . . Crater high wins District 6 A-2 southern division baseball mantle.

MAY

Hardtop auto racing starts at posse grounds, Jack McCoy wins main . . . Jack Wood gets hole-in-one at Rogue Valley Country club . . . Medford high basketballers beat Yreka, Klamath Falls (2), lose to Grants Pass, Eugene high (2), Oregon Frosh . . . Medford tennis team defeats Grants Pass, Klamath Falls, loses to Roseburg (2); Southern Oregon conference champs; Stan Kalapus cops singles, Don West, Don Robinson doubles for Medford high in district tourney; Kalapus semi-finalist in state tourney . . . Medford Police Athletic league being organized . . . Sue DeVoe, Medford, low gross in Willamette Valley-Southern Oregon Women's Golf association tourney here . . . Helen Davis beats Belle Schenck for spring handicap golf crown at Rogue Valley Country club . . . Medford high defeats Klamath Falls in track, wins district and state track titles, edging North Bend by 2 1/3 points for 10th state toga; Gary Strong in high hurdles gets lone Medford state meet first; district meet qualifies Medford for 14 state meet berths; Jack Brophy in discus, Benson Foley, Lew Breazeale in pole vault set district marks . . . Talent Jackson County B baseball champ as Don Cohill no-hitters Butte Falls high; Talent whips Sacred Heart for District 5B mantle, Spray for state tourney berth, whips Echo in state meet; Talent declared state co-champ with Verboort when rain halts tourney . . . Rogue River recognized as county B track champ . . . Bowling champs crowned: C and C Loggers, Industrial; Walker Real Estate, Classic; White City, City; McDuffies drive-in, Ladies . . . Mickey McKeown, Medford, coxswain University of Washington freshman rowing team . . . Bill Caldwell hurls no-hitter for Eagle Point high against Rogue River . . . Central Point county grade school track champion . . . Grants Pass District 6 A-1 baseball champ; Bandon beats Crater for District 6 A-2 toga; Grants Pass tops Bandon for state tourney spot . . . Medford high golfers third in Upstate, ties for third in Willamette Valley, third in state tourney . . . Rogue River wins B district prep track meet; Stan Read, St. Mary's, qualifies for state in broad jump, dashes; Read wins state B broad jump, second in furlong, third in hundred . . . Mike Donahue, ex-Medford Rogue, catching for San Francisco Seals; Glen Gorbus, ex-Medford Nugget, with Fort Worth Cats in Texas League . . . Medford Cheney Studs baseballers beat Eldorado Lumber, lose to Grants Pass, split with Eugene Caseys . . . Southern Oregon Baseball League starts play after Roseburg drops out . . . Lee Swem wins spring outdoor rifle tourney . . . Russ McKechnie new president Medford Softball association . . . Brookings Machine, Roy Young Insurance team winners, Tom Coveny and Max Frink and Elsie Baker and Jeannetta Hampson win doubles; Bill Blunt takes singles and all-events, Vi Florey singles and Anita Baughman all events in Southern Oregon handicap Bowling tourney . . . Rogue Valley Baseball League holds jamboree . . . George Harrington medalist, wins Roseburg amateur golf tournament.



STAN READ
State B Track Star

OREGON GOLF CHAMPION — Eddie Simmons, Medford, right above, won the Oregon Golf association championship in June at Rogue Valley Country club. It was one of the sports highlights here in 1954. Shown with Simmons is runner-up, Harvey Hixson, Eugene.

JUNE

Medford Cheny Stud baseballers beat Yreka, Weed, Bookings (2), split with Grants Pass, lose to Drain (2), Hilt . . . Tom MacLeod, Medford, with net 61 on National Golf day, beats Ben Hogan . . . MacLeod, Wendell Wissler win two-ball match play golf title at Rogue Valley Country club . . . Construction of three new holes, rerouting, lengthening, toughening Rogue Valley Country club golf links changes course from easy par 71 layout to tough 72 par setup for Oregon Golf association tourney . . . Medford American Junior Legion baseball nine wins two from Myrtle Creek, wins two, loses one with Grants Pass, splits with Klamath Falls . . . Rogue Valley Country club team fifth in Alderwood memorial golf tourney, Portland . . . Oregon shoot, Pacific International Trapshooting association, held here, winners: Orley Milligan AA, Sam Samson A, Al Kehrli B, William Jantzer C, John Weis D, R. L. McMullen preliminary handicap, Donna Wooley, state handicap and women's singles; Harry Hanson, Medford handicap, Harry Lupher doubles, John Williner singles, John Simpson all-around, Ron Powell junior, Larry Horn subjunior . . . Larry Copple, Medford, second low qualifier, reaches semi-finals Oregon Golf association junior tourney; Carole Jo Kabler dethrones Sue DeVoe, Medford, for girls' crown; Mike Monroe, Medford, pee wee finalist . . . Upstate team beats Portland in OGA tourney prelude here . . . Eddie Simmons, Medford, tips Harvey Hixson on 37th hole, Mary Rowell downs Carole Kabler for Oregon Golf association championships at Rogue Valley course; Rogue valley wins team trophy in qualifying; Tal Smith fires course record 68 in play-off with Bruce Stanley, Medford, for men's medal honors; Barbara Snook defeats Mrs. Harry Stepp in play-off for women's medal award; Simmons fires 69 in men's first qualifying round; Rogue Valley wins team trophy in qualifying . . . E. W. Pease, Medford, new president of Pacific International Trapshooting association; Medford awarded 1955 Grand Pacific shoot of PITA . . . Sandblowers have triple play in junior baseball

(Continued on Page 11)

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