



FOLLOW THE BOUNCING BALL—Bouncing the ball among them as they battle for possession are Seton Hall's Bill Petrillo and Ed Petrie (right) and Cincinnati's Tom Hood (left) during their game at Madison Square Garden in New York. Cincinnati won, 88-78.

MEDFORD MAIL TRIBUNE

SPORTS

Cold Medford Five Comes from Behind to Post Victory, 51-44

GP Proves Tough Foe, Leads at Half

SOUTHERN OREGON CONFERENCE STANDINGS

Team	W.	L.	Pct.
Medford	7	0	1.000
Klamath Falls	4	3	.571
Grants Pass	2	5	.286
Ashland	1	6	.143

Those fans who've been yapping that Medford high's Southern Oregon Conference basketball victories have been too one-sided and that the tussles should be closer to make the games more interesting—brother, they had it Friday night.

For the Grants Pass Cavemen, the quintet over which Medford rambled in its most decisive win of the year, came close to handing the mighty Black Tornado its first league setback of the season.

There was a chill in the Big Breeze when it blew into Grants Pass Friday. It ran into a hustling, ballhawking Caveman gang fired high by a betting gimmick and by its own desire to dump Oregon's No. 1 prep team before a shouting, screaming, whoop it up hometown crowd.

Only a strong third quarter scoring comeback and tight second half "inside" defense enabled the Tornado finally to fight into the lead, keep it, puff to a 51 to 44 margin over the Cavemen and run the Medford unbeaten string in the loop to seven straight games.

The close call, which saw Medford—the most off stride it has been this year, kept the three-game conference lead over Klamath Falls which pounded Ashland 73 to 35 at Klamath.

The Cavemen, who were to help transport a pair of physical education teachers in a "parade" today if they didn't win one game of the week-end series, were "on the ball" during the evening. They hurried and harried the Tornado throughout while the Medfordites were off form in their ball moving, and during the first half, were cold in shooting and not up to capability on defense.

Medford trailed the Cavemen through the entire first half. Grants Pass boasted nine point leads once in the first and twice in the second quarter. Then the Tornado fought on top in the third canto, got nine point bulges, twice, then saw the advantage almost fade away, largely through the long range shooting of Grants Pass reserve Allen Drews.

The Medfordites, with three field goals and four free shots, outfired the Cavemen 10 to 4 in the last four minutes of the evening to preserve a victory. Lagged at Half

Going into the second half, Medford lagged 22 to 26. Larry Coplee got a pair of free shots as the third quarter opened. And Glenn Peterson deadlocked the score at 26-all with a jumper in close—the only tie of the contest—with 1½ minutes played. Three minutes into the period Frank Rector canned a shot from the side with an assist from Jerry Kalapus and Medford was in front.

Peterson got a free heave and Coplee a bucket on a lay-in off a jump ball. That made it 31 to 26. With 4½ minutes of the canto gone, Raleigh Burr got the Cavemen's first goal of the quarter. Johnny Foust, Peterson and Rector all hit from the field for a score of 37 to 28.

To close out the panel Jerry Kalapus hit a jumper close for Medford while Don James sank a longie and Mel Drews a charity bucket for a 39 to 31 standing.

Allen Drews Deadly
While there was a 1½-minute drought in Tornado scoring in the fourth quarter, the Cavemen got their offensive weave going. Grants Pass couldn't penetrate the Medford defense to hit the hoop from in close. But Allen Drews flipped in two shots from long range and Burr got two free tries. That hacked the standing to 39 to 37.

Kalapus then put in two from the free line but Drews connected for another long one and Burr connected once from the free alley. The score was a skimpy 41 to 40.

Rector put in a jump shot from the side and Peterson and Coplee free tosses for 45 to 40. Pesky Drews flashed from afar once more for 45 to 42. Rector popped in a free shot then a field goal on a fast break after a swipe by Kastner for 49 to 42. Reid got two free heaves as Kastner fouled out with 1¼ minutes to play. In the final seconds Rector, after a neat swipe on a GP out of bounds play, boomed in to lay in the final Medford goal.

Cavemen Start Strong
Grants Pass picked up six points in the game before Medford could switch the hemp. They had a 9 to 2 margin and another of 13 to 4. Count at the quarter end was 13 to 0. The Tornado made it 13 to 10 as the next period started but GP widened to 21 to 12 and 23 to 14. Coplee got two free tosses and Kalapus goaled off a fast break.

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While Russell is over-shadowing Jones right now, Coach Phil Woolpert of the Dons doesn't underestimate the value of his top player. "The 'Play-Maker'" "Jones isn't the captain of our team," says Woolpert, "but he is the man the fellows look to when they are in trouble. He is the playmaker. He is the 'come through' guy when we desperately need a basket to get under way. I can't explain to you how important a man he is on the team."

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Kalapus, c 5 4 2 14
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Coplee, f 2 1 0 19
Foust, f 1 0 4 2
Ceary, c 0 0 0 0
Totals 18 15 16 51

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Reese, f 0 2 1 2
Burr, c 3 5 3 11
Reid, g 1 4 2 6
James, g 3 3 0 9
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The first quarter was run in a sizzling 56.6 seconds. Santee then took charge and brought the 12,500 fans screaming to their feet when he hit the half-way mark at 1:59.

But that pace was to prove too much for the two favorites. Dwyer then came charging to the front and hit the three-quarter mark in 3:04.7. With two laps to go, he pulled away to 15 yards over Nielsen and Santee slipped far back into third place.

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