

Little Six Cage Tournament Openers This Evening at EP

Class A basketball attention in this area focuses tonight on Eagle Point where teams of the Little Six begin their tournament to determine who plays Medford for the District 4 championship and a state tournament berth. Single elimination play continues through Saturday night.

Two of the leading contenders collide tonight in the tournament opener. Phoenix, runner-up in the Rogue League, and host Eagle Point mix at 7 p.m. Their game will be followed by an Illinois Valley-Henley engagement at 8:30 p.m.

Two games are scheduled Friday. Tonight's winners play then at 7 p.m. Crater and Brookings will be rivals at 8:30 p.m. The Comets of Crater rank with Eagle Point and Phoenix in the contender role since they won the Rogue title.

Interest High

Interest will be high in the opening brush tonight. Phoenix beat Eagle Point three times out of four in loop play but two of the margins were very close and tonight's fray is considered a toss-up. Eagle Point may start with Harvey Nelson, Carl Christian, Bill Caldwell, Frank Reich and Jack Greb. For Phoenix it may be Bill Madden, Jim Korth, Ron Vreeken, Charles Wall and Ray Dahl.

Illinois Valley probably will

open with Larry Maurer, Howard Pickle, Dennis Krauss, George Harrison and Gene Sams. Henley may have Dale Searcy, Randy Montgomery, Lou Zarsinski, Joe Arant and Gary Cunningham.

Crater was to work out today on the Eagle Point court. Coach Leonard Warren said his Comets have stressed defense and fast break this week. Against Brookings tomorrow, Fred Hogue, Jim Higinbotham, Bob Gray, Harvey Tonn and Vern

Parent may start. No report has been received from Brookings.

Referees for the tourney will be Barney Riggs, Cliff McLean, Golden Noble and Bill Esselstyn. Timers will be Alf Mekvold and William Ruck and scorers will be Les Warner and Robert Southerland.

There are no season tickets for the tourney. There will be separate game prices for adults, high school students and grade school students with somewhat higher prices for the Saturday night program of three games.

MEDFORD MAIL TRIBUNE

SPORTS

Medford Hoop Quints Journey To Klamath

Three Medford basketball aggregations travel to Klamath Falls tomorrow and all three could have their hands full.

Medford senior high and Klamath Falls varsities will top off the Friday program with a regular Southern Oregon Conference ruckus. Jayvee teams of the two schools scrap in the preliminary. In the afternoon ninth grade teams of the two cities will have it.

Black Tornado varsity and junior varsity clubs stay over for Saturday night action.

All three Medford crews came out on top in earlier games in Medford but the junior varsity in particular had a close call. The Pelicans are expected to be tougher on their home floor. They almost always are.

Two Clubs Unbeaten

Medford junior varsity and ninth grade clubs go to Klamath with unbeaten records. The Tornado varsity has suffered one setback but since then has won 18 games straight including

10 in the conference and is rated No. 1 in Oregon in two press polls.

However, so far as the varsity is concerned, Klamath Falls is rated as the club most likely to succeed in this area in knocking the Medfordites off their pedestal. It has a big, rugged club which has improved through the season and which is expected to make a better showing against Medford than in two previous losses here.

Medford has the taller men but Klamath has more all-around height and that is expected to be more an evening factor than in the first series. Klamath with its size can run and shoot, also.

Another indication of a close Medford-Klamath rivalry is shown in the Klamath Falls Grants Pass series of last week. The two clubs split at Grants Pass and only the week before the Cavemen had thrown a terrible scare into Medford, the Tornado winning finally by seven points. GP then beat KF by seven but lost the following night by four.

Starter Told

Likely KF starters are big Dave D'Olivo, Guy Munsell, Martin Causey, Jack Sunitsch and Larry Yarnell or Dan Lowe. For Medford it may be Glenn Peterson, Bud Kastner, Jerry Kalapus, Frank Rector and Larry Copple.

Coach Frank Roelandt said that he'll take his full Tornado varsity crew of 13. Eight boys from the regular jayvee squad will make the trip and some of the underclassmen on the varsity likely will see junior varsity action.

Prestige only is at stake for the Black Tornado. It already has seven up the conference championship. Medford leads KF by four games with only two to be played.

Records Likely In South Division

Los Angeles—(U.P.)—The final weekend of play in the Pacific Coast Conference Southern Division should see three new loop records set, statistics showed today.

While UCLA has clinched the title and leads in every team department, California's big Bob McKeen and Stanford's little Ron Tomsic are waging a furious battle for division scoring honors and one of them is sure to break the 238 mark set in 1950 by Bill Sharman of University of Southern California.

McKeen Has 219

McKeen has scored 219 points in 10 games and Tomsic 208. The California center already has scored 627 points in three years to break the division record of 612 points formerly held by Hank Luisetti of Stanford.

UCLA's junior center, Willie Naulls, meanwhile, has collected 123 rebounds, just 11 short of the record set by Stanford's Ramstead in 1952.

Dick Welsh of SC and Don Bragg of the Bruins are sporting shooting percentages of 55.8 and 52.3 respectively and both appear certain to break J. Rickson's 47.9 record set with California in 1953.

Steelhead Luck Poor In Illinois

Portland—(U.P.)—The weekly fishing report prepared by the State Game Commission:

SOUTHWEST: Smith river and Tennesse lakes outlet clear but steelhead angling slow; few anglers out; steelhead fishing in south coast streams slow with Chetco and Elk rivers producing best catches; steelhead success in Illinois river poor.

Regulation changes adopted this year for the Rogue and Applegate rivers do not become effective until 1956.



BACK WITH CLOWNS — Sgt. Howie Rand, late of the U. S. Army, and now back again with the Harlem Clowns, cuts up a bit. This is an action shot of Howie biting his finger-nails as he looks at a basketball. What to do? Generally Howie does something to get a huge laugh from the crowd. The Harlem Clowns play at Medford senior high on Wednesday, March 2.

Cabbies Vie Tonight For District Banner

A rarin' to go Medford Yellow Cab basketball team, anticipating a hard battle but hoping to maintain its superiority over southern Oregon competition, invades Grants Pass tonight.

The Cabbies oppose the Southern Oregon Plywoods and the prize for the victor is the District 10 championship and a trip to the Oregon AAU tournament at Hermiston. Game time tonight is 8 p.m.

Both teams won their city championships.

With each team boasting ex-high school and ex-college players, George Curtis of the Grants Pass Daily Courier has reported: "Probably the finest group of amateur players ever to appear in an independent basketball game at Grants Pass will be in the two line-ups."

Jimmy Vernon, skipper for the Yellow Cabbies has reported the Medford Independent Basketball League champions in top shape. Probable starters for Cab are Ed Hummel, ex-Portland U.; Johnny Foster, ex-Central Catholic high all-stater; Chuck Stacy, independent ex-all-stater; Bill Werner, ex-Medford high and city loop vet, and Don Wendt, ex-Jacksonville all-stater.

Among the top reserves will be Don Harris, ex-Jacksonville high all-stater, Max Hite, ex-Phoenix high all-stater, and Dick Knutson, ex-St. Mary's.

The Cabbies have lost this season only to Martin Sign of Eugene and to Firmco of Myrtle Creek, with which they split. They defeated strong Alsea Lumber of Corvallis and the Fernandez Loggers of Vancouver the southwest Washington AAU champs.

Question on Reese

The Plywoods with a 14-3 record likely will open with Sherm Heater, ex-Grants Pass; Gordon Prehm, ex-Washington State; Jerry Overen, ex-Klamath Falls; Jack Yosten, ex-Grants Pass, and Jack Endicott, ex-Prineville.

Keith McLean, ex-Southern Oregon college is a reserve and

District Mat Meet Opens On Friday

Medford high wrestlers make their bids for district honors on Friday and Saturday. The district action will be at Oregon Technical institute in Klamath Falls.

Coach Paul Evensen said that the Black Tornado squad will leave this evening for Klamath. Nineteen grapplers and one manager will make the jaunt.

Weights begin at 8 a.m. tomorrow. First matches probably will start around noon. The meet will continue until about 6 p.m. Saturday.

Wrestlers making the trip for Medford are Ken Dunlavy, George Flanagan, Gordon Owsley, Jim Nipps, Ron Lingren, Ray Hilton, Dennis Walker, Bob Welch, Jim Owsley, Ray Williams, Fred White, Les Welch, Gordon DeArmond, Larry Fraser, Paul Eckel, Mel Morgan, Bill Dyer and Larry Cranston. The manager is Marvin DeSpain.

If the Tornado holds to form, its main contenders are the heavier boys, including Dyer, Eckel, Fraser and Welch.

High School Scores

WEDNESDAY GAMES
Subdistrict 3B
Coburg 53, Lowell 33
McKenzie 32, Mapleton 38
Mohawk 47, Lorane 44
Westfir 49, Crow 40

JOHNSON, McABEE PACE B LEAGUE ALL-STAR CHOICES

Gary Johnson, Rogue River, and all-star Jim McAbee, Talent, the leading scorers of the circuit, were the only unanimous choices, in the poll of coaches and teams, for the Jackson County B League All-Star team.

Others name to the team were Ted Stanfield, Rogue River, J. Lloyd Wood, Talent, and Tim Dugan, St. Mary's. Each got six out of a possible 10 points.

Coaches and squads of the six schools each picked all-opponent teams. They did not name their own players.

Seven players received honorable mention. George Zickefoose, Talent, with five points, barely missed selection to the top line-up. Others polled four votes or less. They were Bob Gemmaehlich, Jacksonville, (4), Ron Couser, Prospect (4), Lee Abbott, Butte Falls (4), Laval Meunier, St. Mary's (3), Clete Daily, Rogue River (1), and Joel Walls, Prospect (1).

Johnson scored 201 points in 10 conference games to head all scorers. McAbee followed with 197 and Couser was third with 165. Abbott scored 152 and Stanfield and Wood each 129.

B LEAGUE LEADERS:
1. Gary Johnson, Rogue River 201
2. Jim McAbee, Talent 197
3. Ron Couser, Prospect 165
4. Lee Abbott, Butte Falls 152
5. Ted Stanfield, Rogue River 129
6. J. Lloyd Wood, Talent 129
7. George Zickefoose, Talent 118
8. Bob Gemmaehlich, Jacksonville 118
9. Laval Meunier, St. Mary's 113
10. Bill Irwin, Butte Falls 110
11. Sid Peterson, Prospect 109
12. Dick Sanford, Jacksonville 106
13. Clete Daily, Rogue River 102
14. Tim Dugan, St. Mary's 98
15. D. R. Smith, Butte Falls 90

Fanfare

By DICK JEWETT
Mail Tribune Sports Editor

Another step in preparations for the Oregon Open Golf tournament here March 25, 26 and 27. Rogue Valley Country club has organized a "rock detail" for this Sunday. Members of the club have been asked to report at 8 a.m. The club will provide breakfast. Then the members will go out to the three new holes on the course and pick up rocks.

A golf tournament will follow. Club officials are hoping for a large turnout in order to get a lot done in a short time.

The three holes have been closed to play during the winter months as insurance against wear and tear. They will be opened for play on Thursday, March 3.

WHAT ABOUT ROSEBURG — Are officials of the Southern Oregon Baseball League over-optimistic about the possibility of Roseburg being in the loop this season. At the meeting in the Umpqua valley metropolis last Sunday it was decided that Roseburg persons at the session would contact the best leaders it could and try to organize a group to handle baseball.

Only a small story on the session appeared in the Roseburg News-Review. It said: "Although the league expressed a desire that Roseburg field a team in the circuit next year there was no indication given that the city would do so."

NOT ORDERING TICKETS — Frank Roelandt, Medford high school basketball coach has this answer concerning inquiries on possible local sale of state Class A basketball tournament season tickets: Medford high is not ordering a block for local sale.

The reason is that the school has to purchase the tickets and can get no refund on unsold tickets. The high school doesn't want to take the chance of a possible loss.

There's another angle, too.

MAKE GROUP ORDERS — Coach Roelandt has suggested that local people planning to go to the state tourney and wishing to sit together, should order their tickets as a group.

PLAY-OFF TICKETS — Season tickets will not be good on March 5 for Medford high district hoop play-off with the Little Six champ.

However, holders of season tickets will be given through Friday, March 4, to purchase their same seats for the Saturday night fray. Friday game of the play-off will be on the smaller school's home floor.

It will be two-out-of-three play-off with a site to be set if a third game is necessary.

Jim Martinez Beats Bob Jones — Spokane, Wash.—(U.P.)—Jimmy Martinez, 157½, Phoenix, Ariz., took a unanimous decision over seventh-ranked Bobby Jones, 155½, Oakland, Calif. in a 10-round middleweight bout here last night at the Coliseum.

Jones, who seemed sluggish and ineffective, said after the fight he had suffered a broken hand early in the match. There were no knockdowns and neither fighter began to open up until the sixth. Jones never was able to take command. It was Martinez' third victory of the month and reversed an earlier loss to Jones.

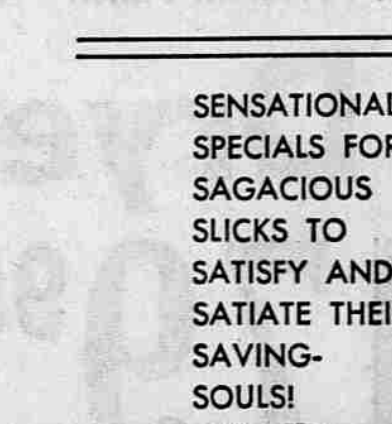
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Three Still In Race for PCC Scoring

Los Angeles—(U.P.)—Although Oregon State wrapped up the Pacific Coast Conference Northern Division title two weeks ago, it appeared today the individual scoring race won't be settled until Friday and Saturday's final division games.

OSC's seven-foot, three-inch Wade Swede Halbrook, Oregon's Jumping Jim Loscutt and Dean Parsons of Washington all were in the running for scoring, shooting and rebounding honors, this week's statistics showed.

Halbrook has averaged 19.8 points by scoring 258 points in 13 games, and the young giant has sunk 48 per cent of his floor shots. Loscutt has scored 270 points in 14 games for a 19.3 average and Parsons' 258 points in 14 games gives him an 18.4 average.

Loscutt Near Clinch

Parsons has averaged 45.3 per cent of his floor shots to threaten Halbrook in that department, while Loscutt has nearly clinched the rebound title with a game average of 18.1 to Halbrook's next best mark of 14.5.

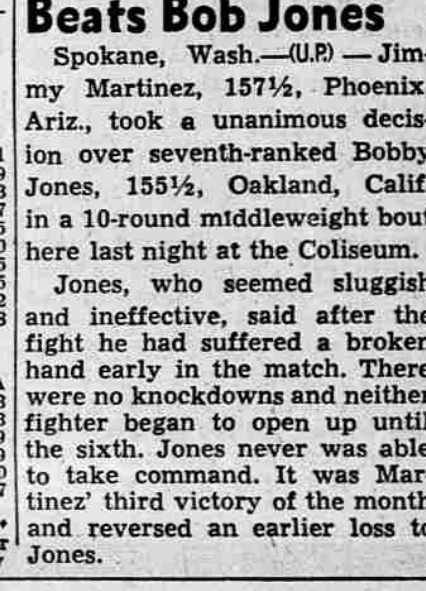
Oregon State dominated all but one team statistic, taking second to Washington in percentage of free throws completed, 69.1 per cent to 68.5. The Beavers led in total scoring with 64.2 points per game and in shooting with a creditable 38.7 percentage. They took over the rebound lead from Oregon, having collared 182 more rebounds than their opponents while Oregon has collected 174.

In defense, the Beavers allowed an average of 55.5 points per game while Washington gave up 56.4. OSC also held their opponents to 31.6 per cent of their floor shots.

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