

Tornado Baseballers Portland Bound For Oregon A-1 Championship Scrap

Medford high's determined athletes of the diamond—an aggregation named "desire"—headed north today ambitious to capture the Class A-1 state championship in baseball and thereby climax brilliantly one of the most impressive years in sports in the history of their school.

Coach Johnny Kovenz's cohorts will oppose the Lincoln high Cardinals of Portland on Saturday night. Umpires are scheduled to sound the "play ball" call at 9 p.m. Site of this finale for the Oregon big school diadem is Multnomah stadium in Portland.

A squad of 14 Medford stalwarts left about noon today for Portland. The crew will work out this evening at the Tigard high school field in another effort to become accustomed to a lighted field before going into the titular skirmish.

The Black Tornado baseballers will be out to add another state championship to the Oregon track and Hayward relays crowns, the state runner-up spot in basketball and the district gridiron title won by Medford high athletes this year. At least runner-up place in baseball is already clinched by the Tornado and Medford has the outstanding sports record among Class A-1 high school in 1955-1956.

Hit Their Stride

Prospects at the start of the diamond season did not indicate that the Tornado would reach the Oregon finals. But about midway through the Southern Oregon Conference season, the Medfordites began to hit their stride. They've been winning ever since.

State title aspirations of the Tornado took a lift as Medford's confident baseballers hit a streak of seven straight triumphs to take the conference and district. Ambitions surged higher as Medford trimmed Eugene 4 to 1 in state quarter-finals. And the Black Tornado stature grew tremendously last Monday afternoon when Medford spilled the defending champion The Dalles Indian contingent, No. 1 rated club, in the state by a score of 2 to 1.

But Medford has a sizeable chore cut out for itself Saturday night on the Multnomah turf.

The aggregation of the Tornado scuffles is Portland's best, the champion of the interscholastic league in the City of Roses. It was ranked No. 2 club in Oregon by the Portland Oregonian's poll of sportscasters. The Cardinals boasted the best team batting average in the metropolitan circuit and it had the top fielding mark.

Lolich Likely Starter

Mickey Lolich, sophomore lefthander, who's almost certain to go to the hill against Medford, was the PIL's top chucker in wins and losses, had the third best earned run mark and is unbeaten in five contests this year.

Lincoln's batting record was .273 for its circuit compared to Medford's .228 for the season. The Cards had six men among the top 17 batters in their league. Dick Occhuito, unanimous choice as an all-PIL outfielder, was the Portland team's top swatter with a .357 mark. The average ranked him fifth in the circuit. His slugging record, which includes total bases on hits, was .524, third best in the PIL.

Other top hitters for Lincoln in their pennant chase were John

Whitelaw with .333, Paul Goddard with .326, Pete Verdurnen with .308, Terry Lenchitsky with .304, Eric Blitz with .286 and Jim Cloutier with .250. Whitelaw and Lenchitsky along with

OREGON HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL FINALS
(Multnomah Stadium)
Class B—4 p.m.
Glade vs. Sisters.
Class A-2—7 p.m.
Seaside vs. Vale.
Class A-1—9 p.m.
Medford vs. Lincoln.

Occhuito and Lolich were all-loop first team choices. Verdurnen and Blitz made the second team.

Goddard was fifth in the circuit in slugging with .512 and Lenchitsky tied for seventh with .478.

In fielding the Cards were charged with 25 errors, fewest in the loop.

Five Loop Wins

Lolich tabulated five league victories. His earned run mark was 0.95. Chuck Keenan, No. 2 tosser for the Cards recorded five wins and was beaten twice. His ERA was the PIL's fourth best with 1.17.

A possible batting order for Lincoln against Medford is Blitz, second base; Goddard, left field; Occhuito, center field; Verdurnen, third base; Lenchitsky, catcher; Whitelaw, first base; Cloutier, right field; Ken Seales, shortstop, and Lolich.

Duane Sides, senior righthander with a five-win two-loss standing for Medford this season, is almost certain to be assigned the pitching task against the Cardinals. He threw a three-hitter in the Tornado's triumph over Eugene and demonstrated his ability to keep the batsmen off-balance and guessing by skillfully mixing his tosses.

Probable Line-Up

A probable Medford batting line-up is Gordon Owsley, shortstop; Larry Perkins, second base; Ed Reinking, center field; Larry Goyer, first base; Dick McLaughlin, catcher; Sides; Jim Putney,

third base; Ron Peery, left field, and Dennis King, right field.

Henry (Chuck) Putney and Ernie Tyler will be the pitchers in reserve. Others on the squad for the Portland journey are Steve Shorey, outfielder; Ray Hilton, catcher, and Fred Linton, outfielder and catcher. Overseeing the crew along with Kovenz is Frank Roelandt, assistant coach, and Larry Homer and Mike Brant.

Medford, a strong fielding, clutch hitting team, goes into the Saturday night championship encounter riding on a nine-

game winning streak. At one time Medford had a 2-win three loss record in the Southern Oregon Conference. It wound up loop play with 9-3. Lincoln was 11-3 in the PIL. It trimmed North Salem 2 to 1 and Central Catholic 9 to 0, respectively in quarter and semi-final games.

Reinking, Goyer and Sides of the Medford team close out their prep careers with the titular game. Jim and Henry Putney, juniors, reportedly are playing their final game for the red and black. They plan to move to Portland.

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SPORTS

Colts Take On Eagle Point In RV Loop Here On Sunday

ROGUE VALLEY LEAGUE STANDINGS

Team	W.	L.	Pct.
Glendale	1	0	1.000
Ashland	1	0	1.000
Grants Pass	1	0	1.000
Vale Junction	1	0	1.000
Cheney	0	1	.000
Butte Falls	0	1	.000
Eagle Point	0	1	.000
Camp White	0	1	.000

Eagle Point and the Cheney Colts each will be fighting for an initial victory in the Rogue Valley Baseball League on Sunday when the two clubs collide at the fairgrounds baseball park here at 2 p.m.

Other league scraps during the afternoon will be Cave Junction at Ashland, Butte Falls at Grants Pass, Glendale, Ashland, Grants Pass and Cave Junction. Just who'll handle the Colt pitching chores this week end was a matter of uncertainty today. The choice could be Eldon Davidson who worked four innings in the Wednesday non-loop fray with Ashland.

Kay Kelley, who threw against Glendale last Sunday, will not be on hand from Linfield college, and Duane Sides, who is being counted on for summer duty, likely will be on the mound for Medford high in its state championship with Lincoln game at Portland on Saturday. Ned Landers is not available for Sunday contention.

Colt Manager Harry Tonn was trying to line up another chucker for the week end. He said that Don LaBeau, an infielder, has done some twirling and could be used.

Meunier May Catch

Howard Morris, catcher, like Kelley is not expected home from Linfield this week end. Also he has a finger injury and has had several operations on the digit this spring. He caught last Sunday despite the injury which was suffered in Linfield's

down to "even money" and indicated Larry would be favored at ring time. Previously 24-year old Ryff had been favored as high as 2-1 because of his speed and skill.

Borcher Has Plywood Job

Roseburg—(U.P.)—Bill Borcher, who resigned as head basketball coach at University of Oregon at the end of last season, has been named personnel and safety division manager for the U.S. Plywood Corp. here. He will take over the post Monday, and will live in Roseburg.

Borcher is the second University of Oregon coach to move to Roseburg to take a plywood position. Jim Aiken, former Oregon football coach, has been with Umpqua Plywood Corp. here for several years.

Larry Boardman To Battle Ryff

New York—(U.P.)—Young Larry Boardman of Marlborough, Conn., the ring's newest "sensation," will try to earn a shot at the lightweight crown tonight in his New York debut at Madison Square Garden.

Twenty-year old Larry, who already has licked two world champions this year, meets clever Frankie Ryff of New York in a TV-radio 10-rounder.

If brown-haired Larry beats blondish Ryff, a Connecticut backer will underwrite a guarantee of \$50,000 for champion Wallace (Bud) Smith to defend against Boardman at Boston's Fenway Park. That guarantee should set up the match.

Heavy support for Larry today hammered the betting price

Sports Broadcasts

Radio station KYJC will broadcast the Medford-Lincoln high state A-1 championship baseball game at 9 p.m. Saturday. The hassle will be played in Multnomah stadium at Portland.

The Detroit-New York baseball game from Yankee Stadium will be carried by station KBES-TV Saturday, starting at 9:55 a.m.

Buck Bailey Suffers Another Misfortune With Cast of Stone

Pullman, Wash.—(U.P.)—Buck Bailey, Washington State college's veteran baseball coach who was "silenced" early this season when he injured his leg while jumping up from the player bench, suffered another misfortune yesterday.

Bailey and Shorty Sever, custodian of athletic fields at WSC, were preparing the pitcher's mound for today's opening game of the Pacific Coast Conference baseball playoffs between Washington State and Southern California. They spied a stone.

"I'll throw it outta here," boomed Bailey. He hurled it

Jim Richardson Plans Retirement

Portland—(U.P.)—James J. Richardson today announced his retirement as manager of Multnomah stadium.

Richardson, 71, who was appointed to the position 18 years ago, plans to continue his duties until Dec. 31 at which time Verne Perry, manager of the Multnomah club, will take on added duties as stadium manager.

toward the fence. The rock sailed over the barrier and landed with a crash of glass. He had hurled it through the windshield of a car—his car.

Cotton has more than 1,000 important modern uses.

Walt's Tops Chris Drugs

Walt's Lithia Motors chalked up its third victory of the season in the only Jackson County Softball association contest played during the evening. The Ashland club is unbeaten.

The Motormen, with Chuck Holcomb throwing two hit ball, whacked Chris Drugs 8 to 0.

Scheduled ruckus between McCulloch Chain Saw and Bill's 99 Chevron service was postponed. Weather Wednesday also resulted in postponement of two clashes. Medford Upholstery versus YMCA and Courtesy versus YMCA and Courtesy Chevrolet against National Guard.

Walt's wrapped up its game

PACKERS SIGN GREGG

Green Bay, Wis.—(U.P.)—Forrest Gregg, 6-foot, 4-inch, 230-pound tackle from Southern Methodist, was signed Thursday by the Green Bay Packers of the National Football League.

last night with a six-run blast in the fifth inning. E. C. Brittsan slammed out a three-run homer in the frame in a seven-hit onslaught. Sim Chapman, Chuck Marrs and Ken Knapp all hit twice in three times up for the Lithia nine.

Holcomb recorded seven strikeouts.

Robbie Isaacs and Jerry Montgomery got the bingles for Chris.

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Chris Drugs.....000 00-0 3 1
Holcomb and Hale; Singler, Waldron (3) and Montgomery.

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• WALT KINGMAN, Mgr. 144 So. Central—Phone 2-8781

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