

Fanfare

By DICK JEWETT
Mail Tribune Sports Editor

Formation of a touch football league in Medford has been given up for this year. Bob Higgins, who has been a leader in the movement for the sport here, said that about 15 men meeting Sunday decided to delay plans until next year and get a start in mid-summer in arranging a fall league program.

The stumbling block for this season was the inability to obtain player insurance at a price players, sponsors and the league could afford. It was felt that to have gridders sign waivers releasing the league and team backers from responsibility for injuries is not practical because of possible loopholes.

No practical way of solving the problem was found but it is felt that, perhaps, during the year ahead inquiry will bring a solution. Insurance costs are high and no one can fairly blame the insurance company's. The league as contemplated would be a recreational loop with no admission charge to be made to spectators and, therefore, no income. Even if spectators were to be charged there would be no assurance of sufficient receipts.

Higgins reported that a good number of young men are still interested in a touch grid program and that it is felt much enthusiasm has been generated for the future. With independent league basketball in the winter and county softball league play in the summer, touch football would help provide a near year-around program in recreational sports.

CODE MEN NEEDED

It appears that football quarterbacks next will have to become mental cryptographers and that clubs will have signs of code men to make up signals for their own teams and break the codes of their opponents.

A United Press story yesterday mentioned that, instead of sending in a "messenger" with instructions, the Cleveland Browns had a radio installed in quarterback George Ratterman's helmet to take messages from coach Paul Brown in the Saturday night tiff with the Detroit Lions.

The radio system appears a big asset except for the possibility rivals tuning in on the same wave length and listening in. Therein lies the need for cryptography. Of course, the opposition might be able to "jam" a team's radio signal.

MARSHFIELD AWAITED

"We'll know how good a team we have when they meet Marshfield." That's been the comment of at least a couple of Medford High school football crew supporters.

Interest is building high for the Pirates' fracas with the Black Tornado here on Sept. 28. The defending state champion Coos Bay school appears to have another powerful eleven as evidenced by its lopsided wins over Benson of Portland and Coquille. Along with having some top players back, the Pirates have the services of stellar back Jack Shanley, who transferred from North Bend.

Marshfield scored three touchdowns at the start of its Coquille tussle without having to move the ball on a scrimmage play, tallying on a fumble, an intercepted pass and punt runback.

ATTENTION ON ROSEBURG

As much as the Black Tornado is looking forward to the Marshfield mix, its attention this week is, putting first things first as it should be, centered on the forthcoming Friday night encounter with the Roseburg Indians who'll definitely be pointing for Medford. The Indians were impressive in smothering Ashland 42 to 0. Roseburg's American Legion junior baseball club's success during the past summer has given the Umpqua Valley metropolis a tremendous shot in the arm and that boost in morale is almost certain to carry over into high school athletics this year.

Medford's games with Roseburg and Marshfield will give indications of how it should stand up in Southern Oregon and District 8 action. Marshfield will be host to Grants Pass this Friday.

NWL INVITES MEDFORD

Northwest Baseball league president Jim Fleishman has extended an invitation for a committee of Medford people to attend a loop meeting Sunday, Sept. 23, in Portland. League officials are much interested in having Medford in the circuit and indicate more enthusiasm

about such a prospect than has been shown here or in the Rogue valley. Whether Fleishman's invitation will be accepted remains to be seen.

There's a possibility that Klamath Falls could beat Medford to the punch in getting into the league, although, from recent indications, the circuit is more receptive to the idea of having Medford. Travel seems to be the main item in favor of Medford over the city across the mountain, although we can't see why.

McLAUGHLIN PRAISED

Quarterback Dick McLaughlin of the Medford high football club has received considerable praise from coaches for his ability to check-off a huddle-called play at the line of scrimmage and call a new play, which he feels will go better against the opposition's defense of the moment, without taking the Tornado back into a huddle.

CLEVELAND PICKED

Paul Cour, prep writer for the Oregon Journal, picks Cleveland high to win the Portland Inter-scholastic league football championship this fall. He picks Jefferson, already a 34 to 12 victim of Medford in non-loop play, to finish second. Other schools in their order of predicted finish are Grant, Benson, Lincoln, Roosevelt, Washington and Franklin.

Bob Swan, writer for the Oregonian, is not so definite in his round-up of P.I.L. prospects. He says that Jeff again is on the list of teams to watch but bunched with nearly every other member of the loop when it comes to the making of a choice. Cleveland, he states, gets several votes to pace the way. Grant, Swan reports, could be a surprise and Franklin could develop into top timber.

DIAMOND LAKE PLEASURES

Oregon State Game commission fishery men are reported very happy with the results in the replanting of Diamond lake. Replanting this summer found a large percentage of kamloops rainbow trout running over 12 inches in length and a number of specimens over 16 inches and weighing two pounds. That's according to the OSGC September bulletin. Cole Rivers, Grants Pass, game commission fishery agent, told Isaac Waltonians here last week that some fish have reached 18 inches in length and that the rainbow are growing rapidly with no roach appearing.

The lake was rotenoned in 1954 to rid it of the trash roach. Stockings in 1955 and 1956 were with fish hatched from eggs taken in British Columbia. It is hoped that the lake this year will furnish its own supply of eggs.

Fishing at the lake has been good this summer, although catches per angler and per hour declined after the first few weeks. The season ends Oct. 7.

Rock Began Fight In NW

Rocky Marciano, who retired last April as the undefeated heavyweight champion of the world, actually began his fistic career in the Northwest.

In the current (Sept. 22) issue of The Saturday Evening Post, he recalls that he never did any formal boxing until he was drafted and the Army assigned him to Fort Lewis after the war was over.

"I still had eight months to serve, and I entered an Army boxing tournament," he relates. "It was the first time in my life that I had ever been in a ring with spectators and everything."

That initial bout went three rounds, Marciano continues in Part Two of his life story. "I Fought All the Way." He says he didn't knock the other guy out, but he did win the decision. Something else he recalls about those days in this part of the country was that the camp newspaper wrote a story about him winning the first bout. It was the first time Rocky ever saw his name in print as a boxer.

Later, he qualified for the 1945 national junior A.A.U. boxing championships at Portland and the post baseball team qualified for the A.A.U. championships at Tacoma.

"I decided to go to Portland," Marciano says. "It was the first time I'd ever picked boxing over baseball when I had a choice."



WEBFOOT CENTER — Norm Chapman, above, ex-Medford High school gridiron star, is currently holding down a first string berth on the University of Oregon squad. The rugged center figures prominently in Webfoot football plans for 1956. Chapman is the only holdover Oregon center with experience and how the Ducks go this year may depend much on his performances.

Ducks Tussle Colorado in Grid Opener

University of Oregon, Eugene — Oregon's fast-moving football team, blessed with good backfield speed and more depth and experience than usual, will get its first stiff test of the year next Saturday at Boulder when the Colorado Buffaloes play host to the traveling Webfoots.

Oregon opened the fall practice with definite strength at end, guard and the backfield and probable weak spots at tackle and center as well as a tough schedule. The tackle problem may have been eased by the fine early showing of three rookies, but the centers are still shaky in both size and experience.

The loss of Chuck Osborne with a knee injury cut into the backfield depth, but the Webfoot coaches are hopeful sophomores Len Read, Don Laudenslager and Duncan Ferguson, plus ex-fullback Marlan Holland, will handle the job of backing up the sensational Jim Shanley at right halfback.

A running fight continues for a number of starting positions as the Ducks head into the final few days of practice prior to their Friday departures for Colorado, but Shanley at right half, Rom Crabtree at quarterback, Capt. Phil McHugh at right end, John Raventos at right tackle and Norm Chapman at center appear reasonably well set.

J. C. Wheeler and sophomore Ron Stover are still scrambling for the left end post, Chuck Austin and Tom Hale remain about even at left tackle, veterans Spike Hillstrom, Reanous Cochran, Harry Mondale and Jack Pocock are rated as a toss up at the guard spots and in the backfield Jack Morris is still hustling to stay ahead of Fred Miklanic at fullback and Jack Brown, LeRoy Phelps, Hank Loumena and Charlie Tourville make it a dog fight at left halfback.

The other key men will probably be Bruce Brenn at right end, Jim Linden at right tackle, Nick Markulis at center, Jack Crabtree and Roger Daniels at quarterback and sophomore Will Reeve at fullback.

The Ducks leave here Friday morning by chartered plane and will take their final workout at the U. S. Air Force academy in Denver on Friday afternoon.

SERVICES TO BE HELD

Philadelphia — (U.P.) — Services will be held Thursday for Jimmy Rumsey, veteran basketball player and official and former Chicago White Sox baseball scout who died Sunday at his home in Manayunk after a brief illness.

San Francisco — (U.P.) — Frankie Albert, new head coach of the San Francisco Forty-Niners, predicted today his team would win at least half of its 12 games in the National Football League this year.

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Kuharich Hopes James Can Take Up Redskin Burden

By BOB SERLING

Washington — (U.P.) — It's a Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde team the Washington Redskins are fielding in the National Football league this year.

"Dr. Jekyll" is the defense — it's as good as there is in the National Football league.

"Mr. Hyde" is the offense — it's thin and already badly-crippled with pre-season injuries.

It was Washington's spottily kept offense that probably kept coach Joe Kuharich from a division title last season. At that, the Redskins surprised the football world by rolling up an 8-4 record and finishing second to the Cleveland Browns in the NFL's Eastern Conference.

Kuharich has tried to soup up his offense for 1956. He got a crack blocking guard from the Detroit Lions in Dick Stanfel, and he figured to bolster Washington's biggest 1955 weakness — offensive ends — with such returning servicemen as Paul Dekker and Kentucky's Steve Millinger.

Disaster Hits

But disaster hit the Redskins after their opening pre-season conquest of the Los Angeles Rams. Halfback Vic Janowicz was seriously hurt in an automobile accident and may be through as a football player. A few hours after the Janowicz injury, another auto accident sent the Redskins' number two quarterback, Al Dorow, to the hospital and the ex-Michigan State star — the hero of the Rams' game — is out indefinitely.

With little Eddie LeBaron nursing an early leg injury, the quarterback situation is clouded with uncertainty. Kuharich is desperately trying to groom Don Bailey of Penn. State, but the rookie needs more seasoning than an Army stew.

The loss of Janowicz was a brutal blow to Washington's hopes. To replace this bread-and-butter veteran, Kuharich may have to shift workhorse Leo Elter from fullback and hope that rookie Dick James, a speedster from Oregon, may also take up some of the slack.

Same Rugged Defense

On the optimistic side, they have the same rugged defensive platoon that starred last year — led by tackles Volney Peters and J. D. Kimmel, ends Gene Brito and Chet Ostrowski, and Backs Torgy Torgeson, Ralph Felton, Chuck Drazenovich and Art Decarlo — a trade acquisition from Pittsburgh.

Offensively, the Redskins are under-manned, particularly at the halfback posts. At fullback, Dale Atkeson looked good in pre-season tests and big Leon Heath of Oklahoma is trying a comeback after several years in the Army. Flashy Joe Scudero may be shifted from defensive safety to an offensive halfback post if the Tribe's coaches can develop a replacement for him from a crop of rookies headed by Michigan State's Jerry Planutis.

Given a reasonably healthy squad during the campaign, this gang of rough and spirited Braves could go all the way.

Tuesday, September 18, 1956

MEDFORD (OREGON) MAIL TRIBUNE—ELEVEN

SPORTS

Sugar Ray Challenged By Britisher

New York — (U.P.) — Handsome, dark-haired Pat McAteer, the British Empire middleweight champion who made an impressive American debut Monday night, challenged world champion Sugar Ray Robinson today "and all the contenders below him."

McAteer of England, who won a unanimous 10-round decision over light heavyweight Jerry Luedee of New Haven, Conn., declared, "I want Robinson, but I'll fight any of them just as soon as I take care of a few things across the pond."

Weighing 160 pounds to rangy, brown-haired Luedee's 164½, McAteer gave the 1,605 St. Nicholas Arena fans a refreshing display of skill, speed, punch and yen for battle.

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Mrs. Borst Is Golf Medalist

Portland — (U.P.) — Mrs. R. L. Borst of Portland was medalist with a 78 yesterday in the 18th annual Oregon Women's Golf Association championship qualifying rounds.

Second was Mrs. Ralph Stearns of Salem with 85. Defending champion is Mrs. Frances Rowell who did not seek the medal and took an automatic seed.

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