Tornado Cagers Start Season Tonight in Tussle at Eugene

Season tickets are now on sale for Medford Senior High school basketball games.

Persons who had reserves during the 1955-1956 slate will have until 5 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 12, to purchase their same seats. Reserves which were unoccupied on a season basis last year can be bought right now by others interested. Tickets are being sold at the senior high. The Black Tornado will have its home games at Hedrick Junior High school gymnasium.

After next Wednesday, reserves not taken by last season's holders can be purchased by anyone interested. The tickets will be sold at the senior high during the day Thursday and Friday and can be bought Friday night at the Marshfield game at Hedrick, according to Lee Ragsdale, Medford school physical education supervisor.

Four lettermen, two of them starters on last year's Southern Oreon conference and state A-1 runnerup club, likely will be in the opening lineup this evening when the Medford High school basketball team makes its season debut at Eugene.

The Black Tornado also will meet the Eugene Axemen on Saturday evening in the Willamette valley city.

Coach Frank Roelandt is expected to open with Dick McLaughlin, all-stater, and Dick Combe, a pair of forward regulars in the 1956 league campaign and state tourney play. Lettermen Larry Perkins and Richard Puhl likely will be at the guards. Perkins was on the state tournament squad. Starting center may be John Payne, 6-4½, up from the jayvees.

The mentor reported that Neil Plumley, 6-5, the club's regular center last season, is pretty well recovered from the ankle injury he suffered in practice last Monday. Plumley will see as much action as possible, Roelandt reported.

A squad of 12 players is making the trip and Roelandt indicated that he will work as many hoopmen as he can into the week end series. Among those who may have considerable service, along with Plumley, are Jay Mullin, Tom Hamlin, Steve Wisely and Don Peek.

Medford should have its hands full in its first loop tussles. The Axemen loom strong after victories over Benson of Portland and Albany. Charley Warren, the Eugene all-stater, played 21 minutes against Albany and recore a point-a-minute for the game, getting 21. Warren is the center on the club. Guard Dave Coe scored 13 and forward Craig Bushman 10.

Other possible starters for Eugene tonight are Don Lawrence and Coons.

The Black Tornado delegation went north in cars driven by Coaches Frank Roelandt, Bob Newland and sportscaster Tom MacLeod.

Lea, Mutual Cop City Loop Tiffs

Lea Motors whacked Ashland National Guard 42 to 28 and Mutual of Omaha throttled Headquarters company of National Guard, 87 to 44 in Wednesday night games of the Medford Independent basketball league.

The Motor club broke away from a 20-20 tie. Bill Werner got 18 points for Lea and Dick Smith 13 for Ashland. Ron Maurer and Keith Johnson each put in 18 points and Dale Newton 16 for Mutual which Bruce Bateman got 16 and Bud Bateman 12 for Headquarters.

Prospect tipped Butte Falls 62 to 57 Monday in the other league mix this week.

MEDFORD MAIL TRIBUNE

SPORTS

Hornets Top Eagle Point

Last season the Hedrick Junior High school eighth grade basketball club had a great year, losing only one of its 12 games. Last night as ninth graders, the cage crew got off to an impressive start.

The Hornets whipped Eagle Point 79 to 27 at Eagle Point.

A 28-point third period was the scoring feature of the night. Hedrick was in front 20 to 3, 40 to 10 and 68 to 19 at the intermissions.

A number of the non-starters for the Hornets saw more duty than the opening unit. Jerry Anderson was top scorer with 16 points and Gary McGill and Darrell Miller each totalled 12.

LINE-UPS:

Hedrick 79		27 Eagle Point
Frohnmayer 4	f	6 Neace
Kliever 2	f	Hawks
McGill 12	c	2 Cooper
J. Anderson 16	g	8 Berriman
Moore 8	g	6 Greenwood

Substitution—For Hedrick, Parsons 6, Miles 1, Lowry, G. Lindemann, Dealens 6, B. Lindemann 2, Cantrall 6, Whitlock 2, Miller 12, Jensen 2, for Eagle Point, Jorde, Rugog 4, Evers, Harinol, Whiteman 1, Peile, Gustafson, Anderson.

Crater High, Oakridge Vie In CP Series

Central Point — Crater high begins its regular 1956-1957 basketball slate this evening by entertaining Oakridge and will gun for its first victory in four seasons of contention with the Warriors.

Game time is 8:15 p.m. The two aggregations, vying in a two game series, meet here again at 8:15 p.m. on Saturday.

Coach Jim Nau has listed a tentative Comet starting line-up of Randy Campbell and Fred Herrmann, forwards, Craig Cochran, center, and Jerry Kime and George Juveland, guards. Herrmann and Juveland are lettermen.

Dick Davis, John Greb and Larry Smith are others expected to see duty. Wayne Allen missed practices Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday because of flu and Nau said it was doubtful he would play.

Oakridge has one game behind it, having blasted Pleasant Hill 71 to 46 on Tuesday. Dave Kozer and Rusty Snyder each put in 15 points for the Warriors. Johnson Schmidt and Jones, who got 13 points, are other possible starters.

Preliminaries are set for 6:45 p.m. for both games. St. Mary's and Crater junior varsities will collide in this evening's opener and Jacksonville varsity will meet the Comet jayvees on Saturday.

Ratterman Out Rest of Season

Cleveland, Ohio.— (U.P.)—Quarterback George Ratterman, out of action with knee and ankle injuries, will not be able to play with the Cleveland Browns for the remainder of the National Football league season. An examination of his injuries by team physician Dr. Vic Ippolito revealed that Ratterman would not be able to see action in the club's final game Dec. 16 as had been hoped.

Fanfare

By DICK JEWETT
Mail Tribune Sports Editor

Please bear with us for a while. This business of swinging from the football season to basketball is hectic this year. Suppose everything will be on an even keel in a week or two.

Ordinarily, this department gets sort of a breather in late November and the entry into the basketball season is rather routine. Not so this time. We can blame it on the late finishes of the Medford and Eagle Point High school football clubs and their participation in A-1 and A-2 class eliminations.

But don't get the idea this a complaint. The only way different we'd had it would have been for the Black Tornado and Eagles to cop the state championships in their respective categories.

Just the same we're still struggling.

BITTEREST FOR PLAYERS

Suppose the Tornado's rough and disastrous calming at the hands of Marshfield's superb football Pirates should be regarded by Medfordites as water over the dam or under the bridge. Still there's the feeling of disappointment. Fans, before they sound off, however, should take into consideration the even greater disappointment of the players and the bitter pill they have had to swallow. They and the coaches are the ones who really suffer.

The one-sided score is something Medford will have to live with. Certainly, the Tornado performance was below the best it's shown. But nothing should be taken away from that Marshfield club which is being described as that school's finest. The gray horde in last Friday's championship finale was close to invincible. We doubt that any prep club in a good many of these United States could have stopped the Pirates that night. The professional, machine-like way the Buccaneers turned back the Tornado defense was the sharpest prep performance we've seen.

SHOULDN'T SPOIL SEASON

Nov. 30 at Multnomah stadium was a stunning, sobering experience for Medfordites. We don't say, "Forget it." But we do believe that one defeat should not spoil the season. After the Black Tornado went through a slate of 11 straight games without a loss. Season standing was 10 victories, 1 loss, 1 tie. Not since the championship year of 1944 (10-0-0), and the semi-final year of 1945 (9-1-0) has a Medford grid club had so good a record.

This was Medford's first finalist club since 1944 and marked the first march past quarterfinals since 1948. Tornado district and conference record for 1956 was its most impressive of three successive years.

In the light of the early season Medford - Marshfield 20 - all tie, the championship game's outcome came hard but it still should not dim the achievements of the season, climaxing a year in which the Tornado made itself known with an A-1 championship in track and runner-up spots in basketball and baseball, as well as football.

EAGLES PRAISED

Eagle Point high, which reached the A-2 gridiron finals describe a thin squad and the bugaboo of physical ailments, has received praise which is worth more than a championship. Coach Stan Smith received this letter from Harry Vetter, Silver Fox supporter, following the Eagles' semi-finale with Silverton:

"I wish to take this opportunity to congratulate you and your boys for the wonderful sportsmanship shown during the semi-final game with us in Salem . . .

"I heard several of our boys say they had never met a team that played so clean and fair and the wonderful demonstration on the field at the end of the game actually brought tears of admiration in the eyes of many spectators.

"That kind of Christian sportsmanship among young men is worth more than winning all the football games in America.

"What we need is more coaches to make more American citizens like your boys."

The Eagles, who went through a 10-1-1 campaign, can take tremendous pride in that missive. It's well worth framing in the trophy case.

That Reedsport nosed Silverton by just 7 to 6 for the championship speaks well for Eagle Point caliber in A-2 football. Silverton topped the Eagles 14 to 0 but the game was much closer than the final tabulation indicated.

Some sources are now rating the Eagles, mentored on the hoop court by Art Thompson, as the top A-2 contender in basketball.

NEIGHBORS HELP

Last Friday was spoiled for this writer and his family long before arrival at the A-1 title game. We can testify first hand to the hazards of driving in fog. In fact we didn't go farther north than Central Point in our own car. If it hadn't been for neighbors and good Samaritans David and Barbara Ives who came to the rescue and hauled us as far as Salem, we'd joined the thousands hearing the game by radio instead of seeing it first hand.

BAND BATTLE WON

Comment by a Medford fan at the championship football game on seeing the Tornado and Pirate marching bands perform at halftime: "Well there is one battle Medford is winning."

TOUGH HOOP SLATE

Medford high, with its concentration on football, did not enter the Southern Oregon conference basketball jamboree last Saturday night at Central Point, but coach Frank Roelandt of the 1956 league hoop champion Tornado was back from Portland in time to have the role of observer.

It's Roelandt's opinion that the Tornado could have a rugged time in its conference defense in 1957. "The league should be awfully tough," he said. "There was not a weak sister in the jamboree." He reported that clubs looked better than they did in last years jamboree, showing both individual and team potential.

DELIBERATE GRIZZLY TEAM

Southern Oregon conference basketball fans can expect to see Ashland using a deliberate style this fall, Coach Earl Iba said that his Grizzlies will attempt to set up patterns and will use man to man defense when they can. Commenting on his club's three-point nod over Talent on Tuesday night, Iba indicated that with his club's style of play Grizzly victories may not be by large margins. Iba is a brother of Hank Iba, whose Oklahoma A and M teams have won two national championships.

Statistics Favor Compton College

Pasadena, Calif. — (U.P.) — Statistically speaking Compton college will be favored to turn back Arlington State of Texas and win its fourth Junior Rose Bowl game when the two teams collide Saturday afternoon in the 11th annual classic.

The Compton powerhouse hasn't lost a football game since 1953 and boasts the longest undefeated streak in junior college football. The Tartars have won 35 straight games.

College Basketball

THURSDAY COLLEGE SCORES
By United Press

(East)
St. Johns (N.Y.) 96, Kings Point 48
New York U. 97, Roanoke 52
Connecticut 77, Yale 68

(South)
Fordham 68, Maryland 62
Louisiana St. 60, Birm. Southern 59
Wash. & Lee 79, William & Mary 72
Georgia Tech 93, Furman 74

(Midwest)
Bowling Green 59, Duquesne 51
Louisville 91, Detroit 78
Iowa State 58, Brigham Young 47
Miami (Fla.) 68, Toledo 67
Loyola (Ill.) 84, N. Dekota St. 61

(Southwest)
Arkansas 77, Tulsa 70
Rice 79, Minnesota 74

High School Scores

THURSDAY BASKETBALL
Gaston 22, Yamhill 21
Siletz 49, Nestucca 42

ROBINSON FIT

New York — (U.P.) — Middleweight champion Ray Robinson, whose recent illness forced a postponement of his title defense against Gene Fullmer, has been pronounced fit to resume training. Robinson will begin training at his Greenwood Lake, N.J., camp Saturday. The bout was postponed from Dec. 12 to Jan. 2.

OSC, Oregon Have Hoop Encounters

Corvallis — (U.P.) — Oregon State meets Texas and Oregon opens its 1956-57 basketball season against strong Portland university here tonight in a doubleheader kicking off the new season in Gill Coliseum.

Tomorrow night Oregon plays Texas and Oregon State meets Portland at Eugene's McArthur Court. Starting times for opening gantes is 7:30 p.m.

Oregon State has played three games, winning from Wyoming and Brigham Young and losing to Colorado. Texas avalloped North Texas State 103-68 last week and has a 6-10 center named Ellis Olmstead. Best Texas point getter is 6-4 forward Ray Downs.

Portland U., winner against Portland State last week, probably will make things rough for the Ducks of new coach Steve Belko who are lacking in both size and experience.

Walton Awards To Be Presented

Portland — (U.P.) — Four Oregonians were named yesterday to receive annual "Beaver" awards for outstanding work in conservation for the past year. The awards are made by the Oregon division of the Izaak Walton League.

Named were Harrison P. Hornish, editor of the Springfield News, in the field of newspapers; Dr. David B. Charlton, Portland, as a private citizen; Ronald Shay of the state game commission in the radio-TV field, and Art Roberts of the West Coast Lumbermen's association, in the education field. Awards will be made Saturday at Eugene.

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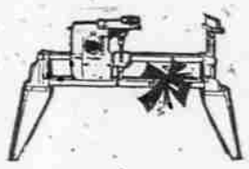
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