

Success of Medford High Athletes Highlights 1956 Local Sports

Black Tornado State Track Champion; Runner-Up for Three Oregon A-1 Honors

Medford High school's finest overall year in its history of accomplishment in major athletic endeavors stands out most brilliantly in reminiscence of an interesting 1956 year of events and achievements on the local sports scene.

Black Tornado athletic contingents annexed two state championships in track and field and were runners-up for state banners in three other major sports, basketball, baseball and football. Basketball and baseball clubs proved surprise packages, but trackmen and gridgers made the forecasts of prognosticators that they would have great seasons.

Tornado thinned down their fourth straight top class Hayward and state titles, a fact predated in Oregon only by athletes of Medford. Their six records in the Rogue relays virtually overshadowed a Grants Pass team nod. Medford cagers barged through three state tourney games. Franklin and Bjorne Jensen of Portland beat them in the finale.

Medford Spills The Dales

A clutch tough Medford baseball won nine straight games, upsetting No. 1 ranked the Dales in the stunner of the season, before yielding to Lincoln of Portland in the championship game. In football Medford bowed only to state titlist Marshfield and they tied the Pirates during the regular season.

There were disappointments in having to be satisfied with the runner-up rules but 1956 was still a memorably outstanding year for the Black Tornado. Medford's Bob Tisdal in basketball and Neil Plumley and Dick Coppel in football were first team all-stars. Jerry Cross, Wally Larson and Bilbee Lane won individual state track togs.

Highlights in the various sports and seasons for Medford and districts of conferences of this area included:

Basketball—Conference titles were won by Medford, Phoenix and St. Mary's High schools, subdistrict by Crater and district by Medford, which had three on all-star first team. Prospect won Medford Independent league and Medford YMCA AAU subdistrict title.

Track—Medford high, Crater, Bonanza district were champions. Rogue River won club B prep meet. Medfordites won honors in Oregon AAU.

Baseball—Medford, Crater, Talent highs were conference champs. Medford and Crater took districts and Crater reached A-2 semi-finals. Southern Oregon league and Cave Junction Rogue Valley league in semi-pro. Roseburg advanced to national tournament after winning this American Legion junior district.

Golf—Bob Prall won Oregon Golf association medal play title here. George and Gary Harrington were OGA father-son champions. Rod Funseth, Spokane, and Carole Kahler, Sutherlin, won Southern Oregon crowns here. Justin Smith, Jr., University of Oregon and Medford, was named on coast conference honor roll along with Bob Selsor, UCLA, and Cheney Studs baseballer. Al Williams tied for second in Oregon open. Sue DeVoe set Rogue Valley Country club women's record with 75.

Football—Medford, Eagle Point, St. Mary's conferece title togs. Medford placed seven on all-star. Medford and Eagle Point won districts. Eagle Point got to A-2 semi-finals. Bill Seymour, Southern Oregon college, named to Little All-Coast team.

Softball—Sport was revived here for men. Lithia Motors was unbeaten in regular season and Chris Drugs won play-off for association crown. Rogue Valley girls team took fourth in state tourney.

Boxing—Jack Puscas fighting out of Medford gained northwest amateur titles then won first prep bout.

Hunting and fishing—Izaak Waltonians succeeded in securing congressional approval of appropriation for screening Savage Rapids dam turbine intakes to prevent fish damage.

Rogue river spring salmon run was good. Hunters had good luck as deer season opened. Game commission establishes boat landings along Rogue.

Cross country—Medford high made best showing in years of entry in state meet.

Auto racing—Stock cars joined hardtops on Valley view track program.

Speedboating—Bill Larsen, Jr. grabbed top money in Remigrant lake regatta.

Shooting—George Hendricks, C. E. Wood, Virgil Hamlin won Oregon state rifle titles here. Herb Gifford second in Oregon Bow Hunters broadhead tourney free style.

Bowling—Southern Oregon handicapped tourney scores highest in history of event.

(MONTH BY MONTH ROUND-UP)

JANUARY:

Medford high cagers win two from Ashland, two from Klamath Falls, two from Grants Pass to end first half of Southern Oregon conference unmarred. Medford drops games to Marshfield, North Bend; Tornado rated second to sixth in prep hoop polls. Medford Bowling association tourney winners: Top Notch cafe team, Paul Paterson singles, Terry Foster, Ed McKinstry doubles, Dick Lugnet all-events. Monte Holst, Medford high, named to State Shrine football squad, gets Wigwam Wisemen All-America honorable mention. Jackson county Izaak Walton league chapter favors Rogue flood control, opposes high dam. Jack Puscas, 1955 AAU boxing champ, moves to Medford. Medford loses to Grants Pass, Klamath Falls, beat Eagle Point in wrestling. Reds beat Blues in Medford Gun club shoot. Crater high to be A-1 in sports in 1956-57. Jack Morris, University of Oregon, ex-Medford high, Baltimore choice in pro grid draft, to finish college eligibility. Jim Jones, St. Mary's, Gary Phillips, Rogue River, named to West Shrine grid squad. Bert Peck Medford Gun club president. Boxer Jack Puscas, track coach Bob Newland, wrestler Dave Newland nominated for Bill Hayward award. Milo Barnes, Rogue Archers president. Police beat firemen in March of Dimes basketball. Harlem Globetrotters play House of David, wow hoop fans at Central Point. St. Mary's unbeaten at halfway mark of Jackson county B league basketball. Puscas loses to Dale Nicely, Portland, Larry Lewis stops Dale McQuarry, Portland, Bob and Larry Little, Larry Nored, Don Wolfe win bouts at Klamath Falls. Prospect first, YMCA second at end of Medford regular basketball league regular schedule. Ex-Medford high boys in college basketball. Frank Reiter on Portland University, Jerry Kalapus with Pacific U varsity, Larry Coppel, Glenn Peterson with Oregon State Rooks. Jim McAbee, ex-Talent, on University of Oregon Fresh team.

FEBRUARY:

YMCA defeats Rogue River in AAU subdistrict tourney finale, loses to Myrtle Point in double overtime in district play-off; Myrtle Point beats Rogue River for title. Medford high basketball team takes two each from Grants Pass, Ashland, splits with Klamath Falls to win Southern Oregon conference and district crowns. Medford wrestlers split with Illinois Valley, lose to Grants Pass, Roseburg, Klamath Falls; Ron Lingren, Ray Hilton, Medford, district wrestling champs; Gordon Oswley, George Flanagan also get state meet berths. Medford rated third and fourth in state prep cage poll. Jackson city grade basketball champion. Hal Zurcher new president of Southern Oregon Baseball league. St. Mary's takes Jackson County B league basketball title unbeaten. Phoenix high coos Rogue league hoop toga. Crater nips Phoenix for sub-district A-2 prep cage title. Crater downs Illinois Valley three times in season by 64 to 51 margins. Virgil Swanson, veteran official, plans to referee no more A-1 basketball games after this season. Timid Tigers regular season and play-off champs in Saturday Recreation basketball league at senior high. Jackie Puscas finalist in judging for Bill Hayward sports award. Puscas wins northwest golden gloves boxing title at Seattle; Puscas, Larry Lewis, Larry Nored, Jimmy Evans, Bob Little, all of Police Athletic league; win mitt bouts here. Puscas wins, Lewis draws at Burns. Jackson county Izaak Walton league chapter seeks support in effort to secure federal appropriation to screen turbine intakes at Savage Rapids dam; aim to prevent fish damage. A-2 subdistrict all-stars include Bill Madden, Jim Korth, Charles Wall, Phoenix, Fred Herrmann, John Shama, Crater, Jack Greb, Gale Friend, Eagle Point.

MARCH:

Coculle high wins two of three from Crater for district cage mantle. Malin wins two from St. Mary's for B district basketball diadem. Medford high hoopers have 398 field goal shooting average in regular season. Mail Tribune's all-Southern Oregon conference basketball team: Bob Tisdal, Dick McLaughlin, Dick Coppel, Medford; Glenn Moore, Donn Taucher, Klamath Falls, Neil Plumley, Medford, on second team. Bill Hollingsworth, Lloyd Hoffine, Southern Oregon college, second third in Oregon Collegiate conference hoop scoring; Hoffine on first OCC star team; Hollingsworth on second. Jackson county Izaak Walton

APRIL:

Harry Lupher, Drain, Gordon Miller, Eugene, high overall, Roseburg team winner in zone trapshoot here. Grants Pass high wins Rogue relays but Medford sets six records. Eagle Point Little Rogue relay victor. Jack Morris, Don Spinas, Jack Moad, Ed Bingham, ex-Medford high, on University of Oregon track team. Jack Puscas in technical draw with Chuck Sams, Burns, on Police Athletic fight card here; Larry Lewis a winner. Medford high scores 14th Hayward re-

MAY:

Rogue River high Jackson county B league track champ. World golf champ Julius Boros fires 68, teams with Clayton Lewis to beat Al Williams, George Harrington in Rogue Valley Country club exhibition. Bill Esselstyn to head Central Point summer recreation. Wally Larson equals state low hurdle mark, Les Lingscheit, Bilbee Lane, Wiley Winchell all run half-mile in less than two minutes as Medford high downs Klamath Falls trackmen. Medford high in A-1, Crater in A-2 and Bonanza in B win district track meets. Medford's fourth straight. Paul Eckel, ex-Medford high, stars in Brigham Young university spring football. Al Williams, Medford, ties for second in Oregon golf open. Paul Dimmick cards 279 for Medford Bowling lanes high game of year; Harold Vessey's 670 high series. Larry Butler, Rogue Valley Country club spring golf handicapper third. Talent high takes championship. Jackson County B league baseball title in row. Medford high gains fourth straight state track mantle; Larson wins low hurdles, Jerry Close broad jump, Lane half-mile. Wayne Christian, Eagle Point, state A-2 javelin winner Gary Stewart, Rogue River, state B broad jump titlist. Medford high defeats Grants Pass, Klamath Falls twice for Southern Oregon conference, A-1 championship, Larry Perkins, Larry Gober, Ed Reinkings, Duane Sides named to all-star team. Crater A-2 district baseball champion, beats Douglas. Ashland, Phoenix win Southern Oregon conference sportsmanship trophies. Grants Pass wins freshman district track meet. Mrs.



MEDFORD HIGH TRACK TEAM
1956 state A-1 champions

SPORTS

league chapter to foster Bear creek watershed conservation. Ray Hilton, Medford high, wins two, loses two matches in state wrestling tourney. Jerry Kalapus, Pacific U, ex-Medford high, Northwest conference basketball all-star honorable mention. Tom MacLeod, KYJC, state A-1 cage tourney sports-caster. J. D. Prime, Klamath Falls, winner sectional National Rifle association indoor rifle tourney here. Medford high defeats Beaverton, Milwaukie, Marshfield, loses to Franklin of Portland to take state runner-up honors in A-1 state basketball; Bob Tisdal, Medford, first team all-state; Dick McLaughlin, Medford, second team. Medford Junior Rifle club first in Ash-



BOB TISDAL
All-State Cager

MAY:

land tournament. Ed Oldfield, Roseburg, takes top money in pro-amateur golf tourney ending here. Jackson County B league all-stars: Laval Mcnair, John Walsh, St. Mary's; Don Vannice, Prospect; Bill Weaver, Rogue River; Bill Irwin, Butte Falls. Medford high baseballers lose to Yreka, tie, beat Crater. Jack Sides, manager Medford-Central Point American Legion junior baseball team. Rogue Valley Retriever club licensed trial winners: Bacon's Bakelb Donder, open; Minoggie's Kingfish, qualifying; McPhail's Marion's Timothy in amateur; Fleishacker's Moccasins in derby. Coach Bob Newland publishes manual on Medford high track. Jack Puscas, Medford, wins northwest Golden Gloves title in Portland. Mike Russell in 330, Les Lingscheit in 660 blaze in Medford high time session, fastest time for Tornado trackmen in nine years. Larry Coppel, Warren Deakins, ex-Medford high on Oregon State college Rook golf team. Medford high trackmen show power in non-scoring meet with Ashland, Crater.

APRIL:

Harry Lupher, Drain, Gordon Miller, Eugene, high overall, Roseburg team winner in zone trapshoot here. Grants Pass high wins Rogue relays but Medford sets six records. Eagle Point Little Rogue relay victor. Jack Morris, Don Spinas, Jack Moad, Ed Bingham, ex-Medford high, on University of Oregon track team. Jack Puscas in technical draw with Chuck Sams, Burns, on Police Athletic fight card here; Larry Lewis a winner. Medford high scores 14th Hayward re-

W. W. Davies low gross in Wil-

lamette Valley-Southern Oregon women's golf meet here with course record 76; Medford women take team titles. Men's bowling league champions: Alexander and Brown Insurance, Commercial Moore Steel, Evergreen, E. H. Mann company, Classic, Sno-Boys, Industrial; Seven-Up, Rogue Valley; Ross Lumber, City. Walt Fisher, Wedderburn, takes Mail Tribune trophy, Gordon Miller, Eugene, high overall in M-T trapshoot. Illness keeps Pete Logan's Omaha Fox out of Kentucky derby. Medford high rated ninth in state, downs Eugene in quarter-finals, spills The Dales in semi-finals, state A-1 baseball play-offs. Crater baseballers top Junction City in quarter-finals, loses to Vale in semi-finals. Talent trips Merrill high for B district title in baseball, loses to Sisters in quarter-finals. Medford high sixth in state golf tourney. Jackson city grade school baseball champ. Tony Trabert defeats Pancho Gonzales in feature match here on world pro tennis tour. Southern Oregon Handicap Bowling tourney scores highest in history. Ron Owings Southern Oregon college baseball batting champ, Margaret Taylor Medford Junior Rifle club champion.

JUNE:

Lincoln of Portland whacks Medford high in state A-1 baseball championship finale. Les Lingscheit in half-mile, Neil Plumley in shot, Jerry Close in broad jump, Johnny Jones in 100-yard dash and relay time nab titles for Medford in Oregon AAU track meet. Allen Bousman wins main at Valley View as hardtop auto race season opens. Bills for Bill Bowerman campaign aims to send University of Oregon coach to Olympic Games. Terry Maddox, University of Oregon, ex-Medford, Northern division baseball all-star. Bob Newland, Medford high track coach, presents paper at international track clinic, named to committee for forming national coaches group. Senate approval of \$208,000 appropriation assures screening of Savage Rapids dam turbine intakes for fish protection. Medford Cheney Studs, defeat Yreka, Drain, takes four from Bend, loses two to Drain split with Coos Bay-North Bend in baseball. Dale Schvaneveldt, Rogue Valley club assistant pro, named golf pro of Grants Pass Country club. Medford-Central Point American Legion junior baseball team wins two from Grants Pass, loses to Roseburg. William H. Pringle, Izaak Walton league national president tours upper Rogue. Mrs. W. W. Davies, Rogue Valley Country club golf star to reside at Redding, Calif. Medford public schools start summer baseball, tennis programs. Russ Heyssel, Bob Johnson two-ball golf champions of Rogue Valley Country club. Rogue Valley girls' softball team opens season. RVCC team fourth in Alderwood golf. Gary Harrington, Dick Sorenson wins flights in Oregon Golf association junior tourney. Southern Oregon Handicap Bowling champs: McNamara and Peepe, Crescent City, Conroy Chevrolet, Medford and Prineville, teams; Joel Coe, Bob Shroyer, Roseburg, Sally Hadden and Skip Newell, Grants Pass, dou-

bles; Verdun Boucock, Jean

Runtz, Medford, singles; Al Hackenworth, Klamath Falls, Newell, all-events. Justin Smith Jr., Medford, reaches OGA senior quarter-finals. Albert H. (Bill) Piche named to Crater high coaching staff. George Hendricks, Etna, Calif., iron sights champ in Oregon Rifle and Pistol association smallbore rifle tourney here.

JULY:

Medford Cheney Studs baseball team defeats Coos Bay-North Bend to knot for Southern Oregon league lead, take two of three each from Coquille, Drain, Bend for lone loop lead, beat Yreka, lose non-loopers to Bend, Washington Studs. C. L. Wood, Bellflower, Calif., scope sight, aggregate winner Oregon Rifle and Pistol association rifle tourney here; Virgil Hamlin, Denver, Colo., overall winner. Rogue Valley Country club loses to Reames. Bob Quinny pitches perfect game for Medford Tiger pee wees. Roseburg defeats Medford-Central Point for district title American Legion junior baseball; Grants Pass downs Medford-CP tie for second. Stock cars start racing at Valley View speedway. Marvin Clark, Rogue Valley Country club member, wins Southwestern Oregon golf crown. Bill Askwith, manager of Studs, replaces Hal Zurcher as Southern Oregon league president. Southern Oregon Timing association starts drag race season. Ron Weber, Prineville, Shirley Stigmund, Eugene, Southern Oregon junior golf champs. Al Williams, Medford, sixth in Northwest golf open, ties for first in warm-up. Walt's Lithia Motors unbeaten end of regular Jackson County Softball association schedule. Glendale leads, Cheney Colts, Cave Junction

turned professional. Grants

Pass high defeats Crater in Southern Oregon conference football. Medford high cross country runner-beat Douglas. Hunters have generally good luck as buck deer season opens. Jack Morris, Nern Chapman, ex-Medford, on University of Oregon football team; Howard Morris, ex-Crater high, on Linfield college club.

AUGUST:

Rogue Valley fourth in women's state softball tourney, defeats Albany, Lakeview, Eugene, loses to Oswego, Oakridge; Bernice Bigham, Ellen Callaghan, RV, all-stars. Medford Cheney Studs sweep series from Coos Bay-North Bend, Coquille to win Northern Oregon Baseball league title; Bill Beard, Drain, edges, Terry Maddox, Medford, in voting for SOL most valuable player. Medford Wildcats, Central Point tie in pee wee southern division, Medford intermediate champ, Grants Pass cub winner in southern Oregon junior baseball. Knee injury limits Monte Holst, Medford, to brief appearance in State-Metro Shrine football game. Chris Drug cops play-off for Jackson County Softball association toga. Jim Jones, St. Mary's, Gary Phillips, Rogue River, in East-West B Shrine football game. Rogue Valley Country club beats Laurelwood of Eugene. Virgil Swanson football officials association president. Justin Smith Jr., Sue DeVoe RVCC golf champs, Marvin Clark senior champion, Gary Harrington, Pam Stacey, junior champs. Bob Tisdal, all-state basketball player from Medford high to enter Abilene Christian college. Glendale, Cave Junction end regular Rogue Valley Baseball season tied for first. George, Gary Harrington Oregon Golf association father-son champions. Herb Gifford, Medford, second in Oregon Bow Hunters broadhead tourney free style. Al Williams, Medford, fifth in pro points in northwest helps NW pros regain Hudson cup from amateur linkmen. Justin Smith Jr., University of Oregon, Bob Selsor, Cheney Studs and UCLA baseballer, named to Pacific Coast conference senior honor roll for scholarship. Dick Thorpe new Talent high football coach, George Bray to continue at Bulldog basketball helm. Dan Luby, Bend, leading batter, Donald Wootton, Medford leading pitcher in Southern Oregon league. Sue DeVoe, Medford, Red Funseth, Spokane, Southern Oregon Golf tourney medalists; Sue's 75 women's record for RVCC course. Medford Bowling lanes leagues start.

SEPTEMBER:

Rod Funseth, Spokane, downs Lynn Creason, Harrisburg, Pa., Carole Jo Kahler, Sutherlin, defeats Edean Ihanfeldt, Seattle, in finals for Southern Oregon Golf championships here. Baseball league champ. Medford high defeats Jefferson of Portland, Milwaukie, Roseburg, ties Marshfield in football. Ed Oldfield, Roseburg, ex-Medford high, wins Roseburg golf open. George, Gary Harrington, Rogue Valley Country club father-son golf champs. RVCC defeats Redding, Calif., Eugene CC, Royal Oak Golf

club, Oswego Lake, Portland Golf club, lose to Columbia-Edgewater, Riverside, in team matches. Jack Puscas, 1955 national AAU boxing champ, to

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CAROLE KAHLER
SO Links Winner

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OCTOBER:

Medford high beats Crater, Klamath Falls, Eureka, Calif., Ashland in football; Tornado continues No. 2 rating. Bob Prall, Salem, successfully defends championship in Oregon Golf association medal play tourney here. Prospect high drops varsity football for season because of injuries, sickness. Medford high cross country team trips Klamath Falls; Crater, loses to Grants Pass. Medford women's Bowling Association preps for state tourney starting here in February 1957. Crater high beats Ashland in football. Fred Anderson.

(Continued on Page 10)

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