Black Tornado To Take On Jefferson Tonight for State Grid Title

Oregon Class A-1 Crown at Stake in Portland Encounter

Medford High school's intrepid, dauntless Black Tornado, no stranger to stern assignment in a long and rousing fall football campaign faces up to its stiffest test of the 1958 campaign tonight, and success will bring Oregon prepdom's highest gridiron honor.

The Black Tornado tangles with the high-powered top-ranked Jefferson Democrats at Multnomah stadium in Portland. Kick-off time is 8 p.m. Prize for victory will be the Oregon Class A-1 championship. Ambitious Medford will seek to unseat a favored defending champion.

A dry field and chilly east wind is the forecast for the fray. Both clubs are happy with fast field prospects which will particularly strengthen Medford's hopes with its lighter backfield.

The titular fracas has been billed as a skirmish of potent Jeff offense against a sturdy, rough and ready Tornado defense. But there are other elements to spark the clash—north against south, metropolis versus upstate as Coach Fred Spiegelberg's Medford crew goes out to gain prestige and uphold the honor of the hinterland. And, Jefferson, tutored by Tom De Sylvia, has its reputation — which the Rogue Valley Whirlwind aims to crush—as possibly the finest grid combine ever to appear on the state's prep scene.

Fantastic 498 Points

The Democrats, spurred by the passing, running and generalship of Terry Baker, ambidextrous all-around athlete, and the packing of the hefty Renfro brothers, Raye and Mel, have run up a fantastic 496 points in 11 games this fall to opponents 44. That's an offensive of 45.1, almost a point a minute through the season while holding foes to 4 per game.

Medford gained its defensive repute by holding rivals scoreless for eight straight struggles on the turf. In picking standouts among the crew generaled by linebacker Jim Clark, one would have to give the name of almost every member of the 11-man platoon. The Tornado was scored upon by only two opponents, with North Salem getting seven and Pendleton 26, a total of 33 or just 3.3 per fracas.

Meanwhile, the offense, held down in some games by strong defensive teams, has still done quite well. Signaled by Bob Pond and sparked by the running of Gerry Lyons, Skip Bennett and Ron Reich and the aerial casts of Pond, Dick Ragsdale and Ken Durkee, the Tornado attackers have run up 216 markers in 10 games, 21.6 a contest.

Multiple Attacks

Tonight's encounter will be a conflict of multiple offenses. Both teams employ T and single wing plays with unbalanced lines and with passing tossed in. Jefferson is basically a single wing contingent but was almost 75 per cent T in beating West Linn last Friday in the semi-finals. Medford digs from its bag of assaulting tricks according to the situation. Last week in nosing Pendleton the Black Tornado started with the T then shifted to the wing and stuck with it when it clicked so well.

Jefferson has power, weight and speed in its backfield and reportedly is more explosive in its backfield with the running of sprinters Mel and Raye Renfro and the lugging of Rance Spruill. Raye is a 201 pounder. Mel and Baker, who also is a running threat, pack about 180 pounds and Spruill is 170.

Medford has more a pony backfield with Pond 161, Reich 135, Lyons 151, Bennett 160, Durkee 145 and Ragsdale 150. Pond carries little. The others have drive and nimble feet.

Portland papers have played up a Jefferson weight advantage. That's not entirely so. Medford's offensive unit may be outweighed about 13 pounds per man by the Demo defensive gang. But the Tornado defenders will about equal the Jeff attacking crew in size.

Platoons Employed

A good number of Jefferson players go both ways but Medford uses offensive and defensive platoons which gives the alternate elevens chances to rest and freshen between assignments on the field.

Both Medford and Jefferson are bidding for their second Oregon high school diadems. Jeff defeated South Salem 12 to 7 in the 1957 final.

Medford took the Class A crown in 1944 turning back LaGrande 14 to 0. The Black Tornado has been state finalist on two other occasions, falling to Bend 20 to 7 in 1940 and to Marshfield 40 to 19 in 1956.

Jefferson was in the final game in 1948, bowing to Grants Pass 6 to 0. The Democrats will go into the action tonight with the memory of a 34 to 12 loss to Medford in the non-league opening game of 1956.

The Black Tornado left by bus for Portland yesterday afternoon and is quartered in the Mallery hotel. Four other buses carrying the Medford High school band, rally squad and some of the pep club members headed for Portland this morning.

Won in PIL

Jefferson is Portland Interscholastic league champion and downed Wy'east and West Linn in A-1 play-off games. Medford tied with Grants Pass in the game between them and in Southern Oregon conference standings. Yardage net gave Medford the state play-off slot as District 6 representative. The Tornado topped Marshfield in the quarterfinals before meeting Pendleton in the semi-final round.

Grants Pass, Pendleton and Marshfield all hope for a Medford triumph over Jeff to boost their respective statures in the state.

Except at one defensive halfback, where Calvin Dean is a doubtful player because of an ankle injury, Coach Spiegelberg is expected to call upon his usual starters.

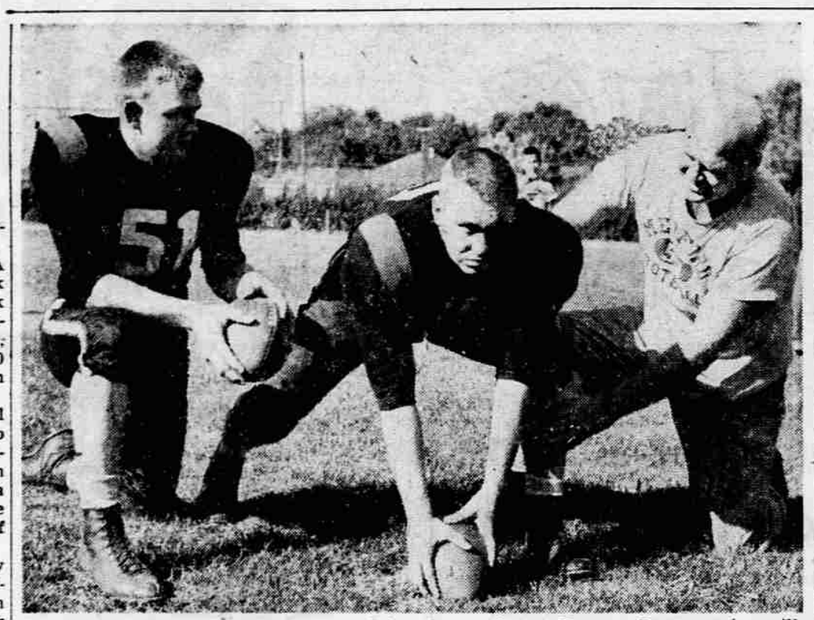
For offense they are Pete Rasmussen and Lowell Dean, ends; Don Harrison and Monty Penwell, tackles; John Frohnmayer and George Ice, guards; Dennis Barr, center; Bob Pond, quarterback; Gerry Lyons, left halfback; Ron Reich, right halfback; Skip Bennett, fullback.

Defensive Line-Up

The defensive crew is expected to be Dennis Jensen and Fred Funston, ends; Lynn Knight and Gary Winetrout, tackles; Gary Heath and Mike Murray, guards; Jim Clark and Al Funston, linebackers; Don Peek, safety; between John Harvey and Ken Durkee at one half back and among Jerry Anderson, Dan Sieg and Cal Dean at the other.

Coach Tom DeSylvia of Jefferson for his attacking crew may have Vic Ellis and Herb Washburn, ends; Ray Evers and John Thies, tackles, Ancil Nance and Dennis Prozinski, guards; Bill Hartman, center; Terry Baker, quarterback; Mel Renfro, left half; Rance Spruill, right half; Raye Renfro, fullback.

On Jeff defense, it may be John Ellertson and Willie Travis or Terry Wong, ends; among Thies, Prozinski, Hartman and Evers, in the interior line; Washburn, John Potticary and Raye Renfro, linebackers; Spruill, Mel Renfro and Mike Hergert, deep backs; with Hergert; or Renfro, safety.



TORNADO PIVOT MEN—Dennis Barr, left, and Pat McLoughlin, over ball, are centers who'll have a part tonight in Medford high's state championship football game with Jefferson in Portland. They are shown with line coach Paul Evensen. Barr, a senior, will make his last appearance in a Tornado grid uniform. McLoughlin is a junior. Game time is 8 p.m. at Multnomah stadium.

JEFF PASSING THREAT—Medford's Black Tornado will have to stop Terry Baker, above, if it is to fulfill its Oregon Class A-1 high school football championship ambitions tonight at Multnomah stadium in Portland. Baker quarterbacks Medford's state final foe, the defending titlist Jefferson Democrats. The Demo ace has completed 56 of 90 pass attempts this season for a .622 average, 1,191 yards and 20 touchdowns. —(Portland Oregonian photo).

Player Trophy Given Dawkins

Philadelphia – (UPI) – Pete Dawkins, Army's star halfback who will display his talents here Saturday in the annual game against Navy, is the winner of the Maxwell trophy as the nation's "No. 1 college player of the year."

The versatile Dawkins, who also is Corps commander and an honor student, is the third Army man to receive the honor in the club's 22 year history. Glenn Davis and Felix (Doc) Blanchard were previous winners.

Presentation of the trophy to the 20-year-old cadet will be made here Jan. 19, according to National Football League President Bert Bell, Maxwell club president who announced Dawkins' selection Thursday.

Casper Leader In Havana Golf

Havana, Cuba –(UPI)– Husky, long-hitting Billy Casper Jr. carried a one-stroke lead today into the second round of the Havana Country Club Invitational Golf tournament.

Casper, of Chula Vista, Calif., sliced six strokes off par on the country club of Havana course Friday when he toured the first round in 66. However, that was only one stroke better than Mike Fetchik of Mahopac, N.Y.

Willamette Rated 25th

New York–(UPI)– Willamette University of Salem, Ore., ranked 25th in the nation this week in the United Press International small college poll.

Willamette finished its season with only one loss, 7-0 to Arizona State of Flagstaff which was ranked fifth this week.

Oak Knoll Sets Mark

Oak Knoll Golf club, representing an Ashland links and Medford lanes, set a new record in winning the men's team event of the Timber Capital Bowling tournament at Roseburg.

Its score was 3113.

Morning Fresh Bread, Medford, was eighth with 3009.

Art Brooks, Medford, was fifth in singles with 670 and Don Ivie, Medford, took second in all-events with 1924.

Medford women placing among the leaders were Lamport's Sporting Goods, third in team with 2698, Vivian Knox and Shirley Daigle, second in doubles with 1167 and Jane Kessler and Anna Dale Bohannon fourth with 1143, and Mrs. Knox, fourth in all-events with 1737.

Widow of Ott Improves Daily

New Orleans –(UPI)– Mrs. Mildred Ott, 49-year-old widow of the late Mel Ott, ex-Giant baseball slugger, will "recover completely, barring any unforseen complications," from injuries suffered two weeks ago in an auto accident which claimed the life of her husband.

Her physicians said Mrs. Ott "is doing very well and is improving day by day." She is expected to undergo a third operation this week for correction of broken bones suffered in the Bay St. Louis, Miss., accident.

Mrs. Ott was critically injured in the auto collision, sustaining two broken legs, a broken arm bone, head and internal injuries.

SPORTS

Clear Skies Favor Irish

Los Angeles–(UPI)–The Notre Dame football team, an 11-point favorite, looked happily today on clear skies as a good omen for Saturday's traditional final game with the University of Southern California.

The Irish, always sure of a big following as frequent visitors in the land of the freeway, smog and oranges, arrived by plane Thursday night and scheduled an afternoon workout today at San Marino High school.

The sunny weather, after a week of smog and forecast of rain Wednesday, assured Notre Dame's strong passing game of perfect conditions.

The Trojans spent most of the week preparing their defenses for the passing of quarterback George Izo, and wound up full-scale work-outs with a two-hour Thanksgiving Day session as spirited as any all season.

USC ended the drill with a cheer for Coach Don Clark and a vow to end a so-so campaign with a win over the Irish, who haven't beaten the Trojans here since 1953.

Rogue Archers Slate Practice

Rogue Archers will begin practice shoots this Saturday at 7:30 p.m. in the Phoenix Community club. The club participates in league contests with the other archery clubs in southern Oregon every third Sunday during the winter. Archers in this area are welcome to use the club's indoor facilities, President Herb Gifford said.

HALFBACK DISC JOCKEY

Baltimore, Md. –(UPI)– Lenny Moore, star Baltimore Colts halfback, conducts a radio disc jockey show in Baltimore.

Bill Besmanoff Fights DeJohn

New York –(UPI)– Mike DeJohn of Syracuse, N. Y., will have an "old pro" in his corner tonight when he trades punches with Billy Besmanoff in a 10-round heavyweight fight at Madison Square Garden.

Carmen Basilio has been tutoring DeJohn while waiting for a return bout with middleweight champion Sugar Ray Robinson and has agreed to serve as a second for Mike in tonight's bout, which will be televised and broadcast nationally by NBC at 7 p.m. (PST).

DeJohn is favored at 8-5 because of his long-range punching prowess. The 6-foot, 3-inch bomber from upstate New York has scored 25 knockouts in 41 bouts. He has lost only five fights and was stopped but once.

WHAT COLLEGE GRID TEAM HAS WON MOST NATIONAL TITLES?

Selection of a National Collegiate football champion began in 1924. Since that time *Notre Dame has been picked seven times.* Its closest rival is Minnesota with 4 championships. Notre Dame was last selected in 1949.

TOP THIS!—To any reader submitting contrary proof, Tip Brady will send a signed, wallet-sized diploma. Write to: BEAT THIS, c/o this paper, Box 575, Sausalito, Calif. Enclose self-addressed, stamped envelope.

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SPORTSCASTS

KYJC–Friday, 8 p.m., Medford-Jefferson high football.

KBES-TV – KOTI-TV – Friday, 7 p.m., Mike DeJohn-Willy Besmanoff fight; Saturday, 10:15 a.m., Army-Navy football.

KMED–Friday, 7 p.m., DeJohn-Besmanoff fight; 8 p.m., Medford-Jefferson football.

KWIN – Saturday, 10:15 a.m., Army-Navy football.

Gill Again UPI Rater

New York –(UPI)– Four new coaches will serve on the 1958-59 United Press International Basketball Coaches Rating Board, which will begin rating the nation's collegiate basketball teams weekly for UPI clients after games of Saturday, Dec. 6.

As in the past, five outstanding coaches from each of the seven sections of the country will make up the board. Their weekly ratings during the season have become recognized generally as the most authoritative in college basketball.

The new board members are John Manning of Duquesne, Joe Lapchick of St. John's, John Bennington of St. Louis University and Fred Schaus of West Virginia, named the nation's top basketball team last season by the UPI coaches board.

The list includes:

Pacific Coast

William (Tippy) Dye, Washington; A. T. (Slats) Gill, Oregon State; Pete Newell, California; Forrest Twogood, Southern California; Phil Woolpert, San Francisco.

Bass Gains Triple Toga

Fresno, Calif. – (UPI) – Dick Bass, College of the Pacific's sleek halfback who twice has been dragged down by injuries, finally escaped from them today and became the first gridder in 21 years to lead the nation's ball-carriers in three departments.

Rapid Richard scored twice Thursday and gained 130 yards while the Tigers were swamping Fresno State, 52-6, in a Thanksgiving Day game that saw the losers wind up with nothing but the bones.

FIVE YEAR CONTRACT

Air Force Academy, Colo.–(UPI)–Ben Martin, on the verge of an undefeated season in his first year as head football coach at the Air Force Academy, had a new five-year contract and a pay raise today. The Falcons, if they defeat Colorado University Saturday, will finish their first major competition year with only a tie with Iowa to mar their record, and be in line for a bowl bid.

FREQUENT PERFORMER

St. Louis–(UPI)–Slater Martin of the St. Louis Hawks holds the record for having played in the most (88) National Basketball Association play-off games during his career.

D.D.D.
Dick Knight Co.

Bass thus joined Colorado's Byron (Whizzer) White as owner of the "triple crown" among ground gainers. White pulled off the feat last in 1937. After his performance Bass topped the nation's scorers with 116 points, rushers with 1,361 yards and led in total offense with 1,440 yards.

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