

Better Balance, Split Slates Counted Upon For Prosperity In Coast League During 1959

By SID LOVE
Phoenix, Ariz.—(UPI)—Better balance, split-week schedules and the weather man are being counted on for a prosperous 1959 Pacific Coast league campaign.

Spring drills start in three weeks for PCL clubs. And for the first time in several years, each team has a working agreement with a major league team.

President Leslie O'Connor, who plans to retire after this season following years as loop boss, feels the Sacramento Solons will be strengthened by their new ownership and new working agreement with the farmhand-rich Milwaukee Braves.

This tie-up is expected to better-balance the loop. Series of four and three games—with only one seven-game set listed—are expected to lure more fans looking for a change in faces.

The split-week was used extensively last season and was popular.

Factor No. 3—the weather—gets an assist from San Diego and the schedule-maker this time. More than 20 games were rained out during the first two weeks of the 1958 campaign in the loop's northern cities. But the games had to be scheduled there because San Diego's new ball park was not ready.

This time it is. So for the first two weeks starting Feb. 17, the clubs will play in Phoenix, San Diego, Sacra-

mento and Salt Lake City.

Phoenix Strong Again
Nobody can say how the race shapes up. The Phoenix Giants, who set a PCL home run record last year while winning the pennant in their first try, can be expected to be strong.

But with the clubs depending on the majors for the nuclei of their squads, line-ups will not be set for 30 days after the big league season opens—when the majors shut down.

In addition to Sacramento's hook-up with Milwaukee, Phoenix and the Spokane Indians are owned outright by the San Francisco Giants and Los Angeles Dodgers, respectively.

Working agreements of varying strengths are held by Portland with Kansas City, Salt Lake City with Pittsburgh, San Diego with Cleveland, Seattle with Cincinnati and Vancouver with Baltimore.

"Help from the majors is the basic strength in a club," O'Connor says. "The encouraging factor this year is that Sacramento, which had the lowest attendance last year, apparently will have new ownership, which is taking hold vigorously."

McLoughlin Nudges EP

McLoughlin Junior high ninth grade basketball team nicked Eagle Point high junior varsity 41 to 40 in overtime yesterday.

Regular playing time ended 38-all. Ron Weidman then gave Eagle Point the lead with two free tosses. George Clearwater put in a field bucket for the Medford Bulldogs and the winning point came when Larry Plankenhorn made one of two free shot tries with 15 seconds left.

Eagle Point tied up the game after McLoughlin had led 6 to 4, 15 to 10 and 33 to 26 at the quarters.

George Clearwater had 17 points and 19 rebounds for the Bulldogs and Steve Geren 13 markers for the Eagles. A free shot contest decided which players were to start for McLoughlin.

LINE-UPS:
McLoughlin: 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100.
Eagle Point: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40.

Gene Fullmer 3 to 1 Favorite

New York—(UPI)—Brawny Gene Fullmer, former world middleweight champion, is favored at 3-1 to beat Canadian champ Willie Greaves again tonight in their return fight at Madison Square Garden.

Their 10-rounder will be televised and broadcast nationally by NBC.

When dark-haired Fullmer of West Jordan, Utah, was world ruler in 1957, he won a non-title decision over blond Greaves at Salt Lake City. But young Willie was a comparative novice then.

THREE GOLFERS TIED

Kingsport, Jamaica—(UPI)—Ed Porky Oliver, Bob Watson and Ed Furgal went out to break a three-way tie for the lead today in the second round of the Jamaica Open Golf Tournament. Oliver of Denver, Colo., Watson of Ardsley-on-Hudson, N. Y., and Furgal of Miami, Fla., each shot a three-under-par 69 yesterday to tie for the first-day lead.

"Very great interest is being created in Sacramento by developments there."

New faces around the league include Dewey Soriano and Freddie Hutchinson. Soriano is the recently hired executive vice president of O'Connor and O'Connor's heir-apparent. He is a former Seattle official. Hutchinson is back with the Rainiers, whom he managed formerly, after managing the St. Louis Cardinals last season.

Sacramento hired Bill Brenner, Portland general manager, as general manager, and might keep Sibby Sisti, a member of the Milwaukee farm system, as field boss.

Road Trips For Leading PCC Quints

United Press International Time is running out on the Washington Huskies and Stanford Indians in their efforts to catch loop-leading California in the Pacific Coast conference basketball race.

All three teams are on the road this week end. The Bears (8-2) invade the dens of Washington State tonight and Idaho Saturday. They are favored to edge these second division teams, but then face a tough one when they battle Oregon State (6-5) in a Monday night contest.

Harman Ready The Beavers have been heartened by the announcement that all-Coast candidate Lee Harman will be ready for action. He missed the Beavers' last outing because of a bad ankle.

Washington (8-3) meets Idaho and Washington State. But the chief headache for the Huskies would appear to be an upcoming trip to Los Angeles for season-ending games against Southern California and UCLA. Stanford (7-4) meets USC and UCLA this week end. The Indians need a double win to stay in the race.

Saturday Loop Tussles Billed

Morning League	W.	L.	Pct.
Bullshvics	6	0	1.000
Bachelors	5	1	.833
Horde	2	6	.250
Blobs	2	4	.333
Bony Five	1	5	.167
Buzzards	0	6	.000

Bullshvics will attempt to uphold their unbeaten record in Medford Senior high morning league recreation basketball on Saturday when they encounter the Bony Five and the Bachelors seek to hang onto second in a game with the Buzzards.

In the afternoon league the unbeaten Roses take on the Eagles and the once-licked Misfits have a bye.

Schedule this Saturday is Horde versus Blobs, 9 a.m.; Buzzards versus Bachelors, 10 a.m.; Bullshvics versus Bony Five, 11 a.m.; Hoopsters versus Things, noon, and Roses versus Eagles, 1 p.m.

Morning games last Saturday saw the Horde crumble the Buzzards 68 to 9, the Bullshvics blot the Blobs 40 to 15, the Bachelors whip the Bony Five 37 to 27, Misfits top the Eagles 30 to 28.

Arcadia, Calif.—(UPI)—Santa Anita stewards have suspended Panamanian jockey Manuel Ycaza for five racing days because of careless riding. Ycaza, who begins the suspension Saturday, was accused of causing interference while aboard Your Regards in Wednesday's fourth race.



TEAM FOR SOUTHERN OREGON—Gordon Carrigan, left, junior from Central Point, and Jim McAbee, senior from Talent, are guard teammates for the Southern Oregon college basketball crew. The two, a starting pair all season, will carry the SOC colors against Portland State college at Ashland tonight and Saturday night.

MEDFORD TRIBUNE SPORTS

Weather Improves For Ski Encounter

Squaw Valley, Calif.—(UPI)—The North American Ski Championships finally blessed with beautiful weather, get underway here Saturday with 94 competitors lining up in the men and women's slalom on KT-22.

With the mountain well-packed and lightning-fast, skiers from seven countries will battle for top prizes as

Christie's Ties SO JV

80 INDEPENDENT LEAGUE STANDINGS (Through Feb. 13)	W.	L.	Pct.
Southern Oregon JV	12	2	.857
Grants Pass of Grants Pass	12	2	.857
Medford	5	7	.417
Riddle	4	8	.308
Butte Falls	4	12	.250

Leadership in the Southern Oregon Independent Basketball loop was tied up Wednesday night when Christie's Silver Dollar of Grants Pass tipped Southern Oregon college junior varsity 79 to 77 in overtime.

The two clubs share the lead. Riddle plays at Butte Falls Saturday night in the next league game.

Bette Leads

Wayne Bette continued to pace the league in total scoring in statistics through Feb. 14. He had 178 points and Dave Gardner, Southern Oregon followed with 172. Jim Irwin had the best per game average with 16.6. Gardner was the leader in field buckets with 78.

In team statistics Grants Pass was leader in average points per game with 63.9.

INDIVIDUAL SCORING: (Through Feb. 14)

W.	FG	FT	TP	APG
W. Bette, R.	64	48	176	13.5
D. Gardner, SO	78	18	174	12.8
D. Moore, BF	66	22	154	12.8
R. Reese, C	67	18	152	13.8
J. Irwin, BF	51	31	132	16.6
J. Cavener, R	51	29	131	10.9
B. Serak, H	52	21	125	12.5
S. Heater, C	54	17	125	13.8
B. Irwin, BF	50	24	124	13.8
B. Madden, H	48	27	113	10.3
D. Puhl, SO	42	24	108	8.3
T. Flynn, C	48	12	108	13.4
Jones, R.	37	28	102	7.8

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Red Raiders Await Vik Cage Series

Ashland—A last ditch stand by the Southern Oregon Red Raiders in their bid for the Oregon Collegiate conference title will draw basketball enthusiasts to the Raider gymnasium here this week end.

The SOC aggregation plays Portland State college tonight and Saturday night with action set for 8 o'clock on each occasion. Portland leads the conference with a 10-1 mark while SOC is in second spot with 10-3.

Expected to be on hand for the crucial series are more than 150 dads of SOC students for the ninth annual Dads' day festivities.

Raider coach Ted Schopf reports the men of SOC are in good physical shape and ready to go against the top ranked Vikings. PSC, on the other hand is not at best strength since it lost John Frederick.

Frederick has been the playmaker, captain and second leading scorer. He was also the leading outside shot.

For the contest SOC will have Dave D'Olivio at center, Gordon Carrigan at one and Punk Biddington at one forward. Schopf may have either Don Vannice or Phil Sword at the other forward but has indicated that he might move, Jim McAbee, Carrigan's usual guard mate, to a forward and start Laval Meunier at guard.

The Vikings may have Stan Weber at center, Bernie Jones and John Winters, guards, and Don Bridges and either Ray Torgerson or Bob Grant at forwards.

After this week end the Raiders will have one game left to play in the OCC while the Vikings will have three.

WOMEN'S OPEN SITE
Chicago—(UPI)—The 1961 Women's Western Golf Association open tournament will be staged at the Belle Meade Country Club, Nashville, Tenn. Dates for the tournament have not yet been determined.

Johnson is a football end and a reserve on the basketball team. He returned to his home in Coos Bay and was expected to remain out of school for the rest of the academic year. He was an all-stater in both sports at Marshfield High school.

San Francisco—(UPI)—Bill Rigney, San Francisco Giant manager who fractured his jaw in an automobile accident Feb. 8, may get out of the hospital today, the Giants said. The Giants said it was hoped that Rigney could depart for the training camp at Phoenix, Ariz., Feb. 26 or 27.

BASKETBALL
THURSDAY COLLEGE SCORES
St. John's (N.Y.) 87, Niagara 78.
St. Peter's 75, Siena 51.
NYU 78, Villanova 60.
Mass. 68, Boston College 65.
Montana 84, New Mexico 69.
Lewis & Clark 69, Col. of Idaho 60 (OT).
Whitman 53, Pacific 44.



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Alvarez FT Winner

Louis Alvarez, Central Point, won the Jackson county grade school basketball free shot championship here last night and will represent the county in the state shoot on Feb. 23 at Corvallis.

Alvarez and Dick Dahl, Phoenix, tied at 21 each in the first 25 and the Central Pointers won 19 to 18 in the shoot-off.

Other first 25 scores were Ronald Edmunds, Griffin Creek 19, Chris Rasmussen, Hedrick of Medford 18, John Kerns, Talent, 12, and Larry Smith, Jacksonville, 11.

Nats, Celtics Have Wild Fry

Syracuse, N.Y.—(UPI)—One of the wildest games in the history of the National Basketball association was staged Thursday night between the Boston Celtics and the Syracuse Nationals.

In a series of incidents that turned the War Memorial auditorium into a fight arena:

—Referee Sid Borgia slugged an abusive fan.

—Bill Russell of the Celtics slugged the Nats' George Dempsey to set off a battle royal between members of both clubs.

—Tom Heinsohn of Boston and Syracuse's Dolph Schayes engaged in another tussle and Heinsohn slugged Borgia when he attempted to break up the fight.

—Syracuse Coach Paul Seymour traded punches with Heinsohn after the Celt had floored the Nats' Bob Hopkins.

—Heinsohn and teammate Gene Conley tangled with Syracuse fans before police intervened.

P.S.—Syracuse won the game, 113-105.



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