

MEDFORD HIGH RULES AS STATE A-1 CHAMPION IN BASEBALL

Black Tornado Tips Parkrose Nine 3-1; Triple Crown Won

By DICK JEWETT
Mail Tribune Sports Editor

Champions will come and champions will go. The years ahead will be lean or prosperous. But, the academic year 1959-60 will be long, long, long remembered - it will not be forgotten - in retrospect on Medford High school athletic feats.

Don't spare the superlatives. You need them all to describe the magnificent, peerless Black Tornado, titlists during this school year in three major Oregon high school sports.

They did it - those gifted, resolute and bold - spirited baseball players of Medford. With triumph by 3 to 1 over Parkrose in Portland's Multnomah stadium Saturday night in the state finale conflict, the Tornados rule as Class A-1 banner bearers.

Their championship, added to those claimed previously on the gridiron and on the maplecourt, completed the sought for "triple crown," an achievement which may remain unmatched - if at all it is equalled - for many years to come in Oregon prepdom's big school athletics.

Rise To Occasion

This was wrapped up and recorded in the annals a most memorable prep athletic year for this Metropolis of the Rogue - the greatest year an Oregon big school has ever known.

Tremendous talent to rise up when the chips were down has been a 1960 trait of the baseball Black Tornado. It blazed that knack again on Saturday as seniors Ray Konopasek, Mike Parsons, Calvin and Lowell Dean, Ken Jensen, Jerry Anderson and Wayne Thompson and juniors Bob Quinney and Dick Ragsdale - the cohorts of Coach John Kovenz - meshed their skills to tame the rambunctious bucking Parkrose Bronchos.

Medford's Class A-1 masters of the diamond, with mighty-swinging Lowell Dean touching off the blast with his first round-tripper of the year, roused up from a one-run deficit to overpower its Parkrose foe. Then twin brother Cal Dean and Ken Jensen supplied with Lowell the further bluegone strength for victory margin over the Cinderella Multnomah county team.

Ironman Jerry Anderson, hurling six-hit ball, bore down successfully for the Tornado when the need most was pressing. Stellar and timely fielding play backed his pitching effort and breaks that worked against the Bronchos bolstered the Medford triumph cause.

Bronchos Tally

Parkrose jumped to its lone marker, an unearned tally, during its opening turn at bat. Lynn Alkman, first Bronco to heat a bat, lashed a scorching line-drive double to left field. Larry Kuhlman laid down a sacrifice bunt. Anderson fielded and zipped the ball but the hard throw bounced from the glove of second baseman Konopasek who was covering first. Alkman romped across home platter.

That one-run lead grew more substantial as the Tornado went hitless for three

full innings against Parkrose chucker John Mahoney's offerings. And, the heartened Bronchos from the bench confidently were jockeying the Medford crew.

Parkrose hopes rose further as Cal Dean floundered out in the Tornado's fourth batting turn. Then Lowell Dean severely and abruptly deflated the opposition gloom. He connected with a long, hard high fly that dropped over the high left field wall and into the stands. Dean rambled around the bases for a tying run on the circuit clout.

The ball dropped over the wall between the left field 305-foot numerals and the 339 center distance, traveling some 330 feet.

Cal Dean Triples

In the sixth inning Cal Dean boomed a low fly smash to left center field and gained three bases on the swat. Jensen whammed the ball in the same direction scoring Dean, and putting the Tornado out in front. The ball bounded off the wall and Jensen had a double. He scooted to third base on a Mahoney wild pitch and scored when Lowell Dean sizzled a ground hit through second base and into center field. That ended the scoring in the game.

Medford bid for another run in the seventh frame when Quinney on third base and Ragsdale on first attempted a double steal. But Ragsdale was nailed in a rundown before Quinney could reach the plate. Quinney had been hit by a pitch. Konopasek had nicely sacrificed him to second and Ragsdale had walked to set the stage for the effort.

Big Parkrose scoring opportunities were snuffed in the fourth and sixth innings. Lawry Jacoby hit a sky high fly triple deep to center field in the fourth. He then dashed for home on a squeeze play try but batter Dave Chapman missed the ball. Jensen at first seemed not to notice Jacoby racing for the plate but turned and deftly tagged the runner out.

Pitches Out of Jam

Pinch-batter Dan Kessler in the sixth inning was dropped by an Anderson pitch that hit his head but was alright to take his base. He was forced out when Alkman hit to shortstop Ragsdale and second baseman Konopasek took the throw. Kuhlman line-singled sharply to centerfield. Bud Hill plunked the ball safely into right field. A real terrific, sparkling throw-in by fielder Parsons prevented a run by keeping Alkman from advancing beyond third base.

Then with the bases loaded and just one out (the possible winning run for the Broncos was on base), Anderson pitched himself out of a tense, for Medford, jam. He struckout both Jacoby and Chapman.

That left the tail end of the order for Anderson to face in the final inning. In that frame Bill Hills flied out but Monte Stoughton lived parkrose chances with a single. However, Anderson whiffed Dick Sponhauer and pinch-hitter Dave Beatley. That ended the

game and the Black Tornados were the champs.

Medford got all five of its hits and runs off Broncho starting tosser Mahoney, who was relieved after being pounded so hard by the Tornado in the sixth panel.

Anderson, 9-1 for the season, going the route on the hill for Medford struck out eight batters. He issued no bases on balls but hit one batter, Mahoney struck out batters six times and walked one. Reliever Mike Severson allowed one base on balls, hit a batter and struck out one. The game marked the end of Medford high athletic careers of the seven seniors who saw duty in the championship game and for another senior, Pat McLaughlin, member of the pitching staff.

Victory gave Medford a 26-1-1 record for the year. The one loss was to a strong Klamath Falls team which nipped the Tornado 3 to 2. Medford beat the Pelicans in three other games.

Medford took a Southern Oregon conference playoff from Klamath 7 to 5 for the District 6 honors. The Tornado beat North Eugene 5 to 2 and The Dalles 8 to 0 in championship quarter and semi-finals.

Coach Jim Gay's Parkrose crew was the underrated surprise aggregation of the state A-1 playoffs. The Bronchos, champs of the Wilco league, with a 14-2 record before meeting Medford, would have written a stirring story themselves, had they upended the Black Tornado. Parkrose spilled Wilson of Portland 6 to 1 and nipped Hillsboro 6 to 4 in runoff tussles.

Bronchos Threaten

And, it looked for a considerable while Saturday, as if the Bronchos might oust the Black Tornado.

For Anderson, and Ragsdale, Quinney, Barry and Deans, there is the distinction of playing on all three 1959-1960 state title teams. Konopasek and Jensen also were three sport letterman for Medford. Konopasek was on the state title grid club and lettered as a junior in basketball. Jensen won a basketball monogram this year but was not on the state tourney hoop roster.

It was actually "triple crown plus" during "that fabulous Medford year." For not to be overlooked is the state tennis doubles diadem won by Gary Cummings and John Shaw.

Medford AB R H PO A E
Ragsdale, ss 2 0 0 2 2 0
C. Dean, 3b 3 1 0 0 0 0
Jensen, C 3 1 1 9 1 0
L. Dean, 1b 3 1 2 7 0 0
Anderson, p 2 0 1 0 4 4
Parsons, rf 3 0 0 0 0 0
Quinney, cf 2 0 0 0 1 0 0
Konopasek, 2b 2 0 0 1 1 1
Thompson, lf 3 0 0 0 0 0
Totals 24 3 5 21 9 1

(a) Hit by pitch for Mahoney in 6th.
(b) Struck out for Severson in 7th.

Medford 000 102 0-3
Parkrose 100 000 0-1

Runs batted in - Jensen, L. Dean 2. Two-base hits - Jensen, Alkman. Three-base hit - C. Dean. Jacoby. Home run - L. Dean. Sacrifices - Konopasek, Kuhlman. Hits left on bases - Medford 4, Parkrose 3. Strikeouts - By Anderson 8, Mahoney 1, Severson 1. Bases on balls - Five hits and 3 runs off Mahoney in 6 innings. Errors - Medford 3. Hit by pitched ball - Quinney (by Severson), Kessler (by Anderson). Willa pitches - Mahoney, Severson. Passed ball - Stoughton. Umpires, Howell, Lund, Class.

PLAY BY PLAY

Medford first - Ragsdale walked and advanced to second on ball but pick off attempt throw by pitcher Mahoney, Cal Dean flied out, Jen-



TORNADO'S TITLE TROPHY - Medford baseball Coach John Kovenz, left, and team Capt. Ray Konopasek are shown with the Oregon A-1 high school baseball championship trophy which the Black Tornado won Saturday night by defeating Parkrose 3 to 1 in Multnomah stadium at Portland. Konopasek returned home with his family after the game and Sunday morning placed the trophy in the room of Ken Durkee at Rogue Valley hospital. Durkee was Medford's regular third baseman until injured seriously in an early April auto accident. (UPI Telephoto)

Lowell Dean's Home Run Turning Point in Tussle

"The real turning point was Lowell Dean's home run," that was the comment of Coach John Kovenz yesterday as he looked back at his Medford High baseball team's 3 to 1 victory Saturday night in the Oregon A-1 championship final with Parkrose.

Kovenz described the Black Tornado's championship as "a simply tremendous," "something great" and "still kind of hard to believe."

The mentor pointed out that the players were tense and tight in the early innings of the combat. "When Lowell hit, everyone seemed to relax," he said. "They settled down and played good ball." Kovenz added, "It was more than scoring a run. It was a relaxer for us. It was a morale lifter for us and deflated them (Parkrose) a bit."

The homer was Lowell's only one of the high school season although he had 10 other extra base hits. The ball cleared a 30 to 40-foot wall in left field. Kovenz said that Dean has hit five or six other

balls which have traveled just as far this season. They were knocked, however, in an open park.

Wouldn't Be Beaten

"The kids just didn't want to lose and just wouldn't be beaten," the coach also declared. "We hit when it counted and made good plays in the field." He credited the Tornados with sound defensive and alert baseball and termed the players "a real group of athletes."

Kovenz praised pitcher Jerry Anderson for a "gutter performance" when the bases were loaded against him in the sixth inning and he struck out clean-up hitter Lawry Jacoby and Dave Chapman to retire the side. "He had it in the clutch," the tutor said. "It was a great game for spectators," Kovenz also stated.

Medford team captain Ray Konopasek reported that Parkrose pitcher John Mahoney had a good curve ball and "moved the ball around" well to hold Tornado hitting.

Renfro Shines in AAU Action

Portland-UPB - Mel Renfro was back at his favorite past-time again here Saturday night - record-breaking.

The Jefferson high school senior broke two Oregon Junior AAU championship track records in the high school division.

Renfro set a new 120-yard hurdle standard with a 13.9 seconds time in the preliminaries and was clocked in 19.3 in winning the 180-yard low hurdle events.

Clayton Steinke of South Salem and John Bakkensen of Grant also set new high school AAU marks. Steinke set his in winning the mile in 4:23.2 and Bakkensen hurled the discus 178 feet 1/4 inch for a new record in that event.

OUT OF HOSPITAL

New York-UPB - Casey Stengel, itching to get back in harness, will rejoin the New York Yankees Tuesday after being out of action for more than a week with a virus infection. The 69-year-old Yankee skipper was released from the hospital Saturday and spent Sunday afternoon watching his Yankees on television from his hotel room. During Stengel's absence, coach Ralph Houk handled the club.

WILLIAMS NEAR 500

New York-UPB - Ted Williams needs only five more homers to be the fourth player in major league history to hit 500 or more. The Boston Red Sox' slugger hit the 495th homer of his career Sunday while the Red Sox bowed in a doubleheader to the New York Yankees.

ASHLEY WINS JUMP

Sioux Falls, S.D.-UPB - Ken Ashley of Willamette University won the high jump in the national NAIA track and field meet here Saturday. Ashley went 6 feet, 7 inches to win the event. Ashley was the only Oregon athlete to take a first place.

STADIUM INQUIRY

Los Angeles -UPB - Richie Ashburn, Chicago Cub outfielder, said Sunday he is doubtful that anything will come of a preliminary inquiry he has made about purchasing Connie Mack Stadium in Philadelphia.

SPORTS

Stitch Dies Trying to Save Friend

Louisville, Ky. -UPB - Hard-hitting Rudell Stich, a top-ranking national welterweight contender, lost his life in the Ohio river Sunday while trying to rescue a fellow fisherman.

Both the boxer and his 25-year-old companion, Charles L. Oliver, drowned in the swirling water below the Clarksville dam here. Stich only last year was awarded the Carnegie hero medal for his heroic feat in rescuing a worker Joseph Schlicfar of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, in 1958.

Stich, ranked No. 5 by the National Boxing association in the welterweight division, and Oliver had been fishing with Stich's manager, Edgar Lee (Bud) Bruner and Bruner's 19-year-old son, Edgar Jr., on a rock shelf below the dam. They had decided to quit and were heading back to shore when the accident occurred.

Manager Watched Accident

The elder Bruner gave this account of the mishap: "Rudell was leading the way along the rock shelf over which water flows continuously. Oliver was following him and I was last. My son had stayed on the bank. Oliver was leery of the rushing water and Stich reached back to steady him. "As they clasped hands, Oliver tumbled off the shelf into the pool below, pulling Stich with him. I grabbed for them, but I missed. "Rudell went down and stayed down a long time. It looked like he was trying to get the waders off. "And then I saw them. It looked like everything was going to be all right for a minute. They were both swimming toward shore. Then something happened. Oliver was struggling. He was having trouble. Stich turned back to help him and they both went under. That was the last I saw of them."

Central Point Boys Vie in AAU

Central Point - Central Point youths gained four medals Saturday in the 15 years and under division of the Oregon AAU track meet in Portland.

Vern Swanson was second in the broad jump at 19 feet 9 3/4, second in the 440-yard run in :53.6 and third in the high hurdles in :09.8. Darrell Summerfield was second in the shot put at 50-8 and fourth in the javelin at 151. No medal was given third place.

Ron Caulkins, Medford, was seventh in the half-mile.

Swanson's broad jump compared to the winning leap of 19-10. There were several who felt he actually finished first in the hurdles.

Dairy Maid Nine Again Splits Two

Rogue Valley Dairy Maids divided a twinbill Saturday night with Port Angeles in the Washington city.

The Maids grabbed the opener in regulation seven innings and Port Angeles nicked the southern Oregon gals 4 to 3 in an 11-frame nightcap.

Pat Barron hurled five-hit ball in the starter for the Maids and was backed by errorless fielding. Helen Wolgamott supplied three hits for Rogue Valley and Shirley Hanson and Toni Owens each two.

Both Barron and Eagle chucker Joanne Sundquist threw for the entire 18 innings. Barron had a four-hitter in the second game for a nine-hit night. The Maids socked a total of 22 safeties off Sundquist.

Winning run in the second game for PA was on a double by Sundquist and a Rogue Valley miscue.

Charlotte Unruh got three hits for the Maids and Barron two.

Sugar Ray Favored 2-1

New York-UPB - Sugar Ray Robinson is favored at 2-1 to recapture the New York and Massachusetts version of the world middleweight championship from Paul Bender at the Boston Garden Friday night.

Their 15-rounder, outstanding fight on the week's boxing schedule, will be televised and broadcast nationally by NBC.

Robinson, 39 or 40, lost the 160-pound title to Pender of Brookline, Mass., at Boston, on Jan. 22. However, a poll of ringside sports writers that night favored Sugar Ray, 10 to 5.

Ben Hogan Ties In Golf Meet

Memphis, Tenn.-UPB - Matchless Ben Hogan pitched his 25 years of golfing skill against Tommy Bolt and Gene Littler today in a playoff round to determine the winner of the \$30,000 Memphis Open golf tournament.

A clutch birdie on the 18th hole at the Colonia Country Club Sunday earned the 48-year-old hawk from Fort Worth, Tex., a two-under par 68 and a 72-hole total of 273 for a tie with Bolt and Littler.

Portland's Beavers Sweep Doubleheader

By ROY WEBSTER
United Press International

Today's Pacific Coast league roundup reads like a storybook.

It all started with Seattle's release of veteran relief hurler Bill Kennedy and ended like this: Sacramento is back in first place, Portland has traded the cellar position to San Diego, Spokane trails the pace-setting Solons by one game and former league leader Tacoma is in third position. Kennedy was without a job after his cut from the Rainiers until Portland signed him only Sunday. Coming on in relief in the sixth frame of the second game, Kennedy forced Bob Perry to ground into a double play with Tacoma's tying run on second and preserve the Beaver lead in the final inning.

Sunday's Scores

The Oregon club swept the twin-bill, 10-6 and 4-3. A ninth inning single by Sacramento shortstop Buddy Peterson brought the Solons their 3-2, victory over Vancouver, Seattle swept over San Diego, 13-3 and 4-1, while Spokane defeated Salt Lake, 10-4 and 7-2. George Freese provided the home run punch to aid Portland in their wins when he smashed a three-run homer in the seventh inning of the first game and blasted a two-run clout in the first inning of the second contest. The first game blow put the Beavers out in front, 7-5, and they were never again headed.

Portland added two runs in the second inning of the second game for their four tallies. Harry Byrd started on the mound in the Beaver nightcap and hurled two-hit ball until Kennedy was called in. Byrd was given the win. Reliever Bob Anderson gained the victory in the first game.

Roseburg, Eugene Top Stud Team

Southern division play in Area 4 of American Legion Junior baseball begins on Tuesday evening at Cheney field here. Grants Pass will host Klamath Falls for an 8 p.m. encounter. Klamath Falls has split non-league frays with Central Point and GP dropped one non-league to the CP Studs.

South Eugene and Roseburg American Legion junior baseball nines trimmed the Central Point Cheney Studs in Saturday and Sunday kings-ex doubleheaders.

South Won Sunday five inning tussles 18 to 5 and 3 to 0 and Roseburg took Saturday decisions 6 to 1 and 3 to 1 in five and seven frame scraps.

Walks, hits and errors aided Eugene yesterday in the first mix and the host Willamette valley team had eight runs each in the first and fourth innings. But the visitors made it tougher in the second clash by tightening up their defense and getting five-hit pitching from Doug Pfaff.

Roseburg got four of its runs in the first game at Cheney field here in the opening canto on three hits, three bases on balls, two fielder's options and an error. In the second tangle Roseburg twirler Hobbs held the Studs to two hits.

Roseburg defeated Grants Pass 11 to 9 and 7 to 1 yesterday in scuffles at Grants Pass.

GRELLE SECOND

Whittier, Calif. -UPB - Former University of Oregon distance star Jim Grelle was second again Saturday night. Grelle, runner-up to Australia's Herb Elliott Friday night in the Compton relays in a mile race, finished behind Jack Yerlan of the University of California in an 800-meter run in a Whittier Pre-Olympic track meet. Yerlan won in a time of 1:50.2 and Grelle was clocked in 1:50.4.

MEDICS CHECK FLOYD

Newton, Conn.-UPB - Heavyweight challenger Floyd Patterson, who meets champion Ingemar Johansson for the second time at the Polo Grounds on June 20, underwent a routine physical examination at the boxing commission offices in New York today. Patterson, rapidly rounding into fighting shape for the title fight, sparred one round with Norweger on heavyweight Blaine Lingans, one round with his brother Raymond and two with Julio Mederos Sunday.

LINESCORES:

(Saturday games)
Roseburg 012 00-6 5 1
South Eugene 010 00-3 4 1
Central Point 010 00-1 4 1
Lake and Hiney; Samples, Doug Pfaff (2) and J. Ahorn.

(Sunday games)
Roseburg 000 012 0-3 7 1
Central Point 100 000 0-1 2 0
Hobbs and Hiney; B. Ahorn and Allen.

LINESCORES:

R. Valley 020 010 000 00-3 10 3
P. Angeles 000 000 200 01-4 4 3
Barron and Main; Sundquist and Johannes.

Rogue Valley 020 010 000 00-3 10 3
Port Angeles 000 000 200 01-4 4 3
Barron and Main; Sundquist and Johannes.

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