

KLAMATH SPORTS SURGE IN 1944

Athletic Innovations Mark Sports Year Here

Sunday Baseball Returns to Klamath Falls; Marines Field Football Team

By PAUL HAINES

It took the United States navy to do it, but do it they did, and Sunday baseball returned to Klamath Falls as one of the major Klamath sports events of 1944. The sailors from the Klamath naval air station fielded an impressive array of good ball players here this past year and were barely nosed out of the state service men's baseball championship by the Marine Wingers from Corvallis in a playoff game at Recreation park.

Jim Oisen, fireball moundsman for the sailors, has had playing experience with Twin Falls, Idaho, in the Pioneer league and the San Diego Padres in the Coast league. At present he is owned by the Boston Red Sox.

Bernie Averill, son of Earl Averill of the Cleveland Indians, patrolled the outer garden for the navy nine and was one of the strongest and longest hitters on the team.

At the shortstop position, Harvey Storey made some miraculous stops and was the leading long distance swatter on the club. Storey has played with the Portland Beavers, San Diego Padres and Los Angeles Angels in the Coast league, and before entering the service, was purchased by the Chicago Cubs for \$25,000. He had the misfortune to break his leg, however, in

spring practice and never broke into the starting lineup.

Fred Gay held down the first base slot and has been owned by the New York Yankees for six years. Gay played in the Little World Series for the Kansas City Blues in 1937.

The navy team, managed by Chief Tom Fena, wound up the season with six wins against two losses, both to the Wingers from Corvallis.

In the year 1944, Klamath Falls had the distinction of having the most unusual football team in the United States call Modoc field their home gridiron. This eleven was, beyond doubt, the only grid team in the country to be composed entirely of men who had served at least a year, and with distinction, overseas.

Coached by Maj. Clyde Roberts, the Leathernecks from the Marine Barracks came through in great style after a slow start to wind up the season on a 50-50 basis with two wins, two losses and one tie.

Marble Cook, former mentor at Lincoln high of Portland, was selected in July to succeed Frank Ramsey who had joined the marine corps, as head coach of Klamath Union high school. Under the tutelage of Cook, the Pelicans also wound up the grid season even-Steven, with three victories, three defeats and one deadlock. Medford's Black Tornado dominated the Oregon prep football scene by capturing the state toga from the surprising La Grande Tigers in a 14-0 triumph at Portland's Multnomah stadium.

Sgt. Leslie Leal won the championship of Reames Golf and Country club this year by defeating Earl Weimar in the finals. Reames members triumphed over the Elks club in their annual match and the marines emerged victorious in a service tourney held at Reames between the army, navy and marine corps.

In the basketball bracket last season, the Henley Hornets won the county championship and then went on to capture the southern Oregon class "B" title.

In the class "A" circuit the Ashland Grizzlies clawed their way to the southern Oregon crown and ultimately won the state championship by downing Bend.

On the cinderpath, Coach Paul Deller started with a nucleus of five lettermen and brought them through to a successful season. The Pelican trackmen entered the Salem relays for the first time in 1944, where they finished second to the Vikings. Continuing the season, the Klamath speedsters went on to win the 13th annual southern Oregon-northern California meet held here, and in doing so retained the Lions club trophy for the second successive year.

For the first time in the track history of KUHS the 1944 squad captured the district toga in a meet that comprised all schools from Lakeview to Marshfield on the west coast. In the state track and field meet at the end of the season, the Pelican track team placed fifth in the finals.

Under the promotion of Mack Lillard, wrestling reappeared in Klamath Falls in 1944 after an absence of two years. The muscle men may be seen in action every Friday night at the armory, and Lillard has booked some splendid bouts during the past year. Jack Kiser is now Pacific coast lightweight king, having wrestled the belt from Paavo Katonen some months ago.

These are the sports highlights of 1944 in Klamath Falls. At present Coach Marble Cook is trying to work out an effective combination for the Pelican cage squad, while the Marine Barracks has come up with a classy hoop team coached by Sgt. Les Israel.

All in all, 1944 has been a banner year for Klamath sports fans, with the advent of many new athletic teams and events. What the new year will bring is a moot question, but with the enthusiasm and support of Klamath fans providing the spark, it should be a high voltage



Directly above is the 1944 Pelican football squad. The K-men wound up the past grid season even-Steven and George Long, tackle and Harold Wirth, guard, were named on the first eleven of the Southern Oregon all-conference squad. Rollie Berry, Roger Vanderhoff and Chuck Thurman were placed on the second team while Bud Biehn and Bob Perkins received honorable mention.

First Baseman Fred Gay crosses the plate with run No. 8 for the navy in the sixth inning of a ball game played at Recreation park last summer. This wasn't enough, however, as the Marine Wingers ran wild in the seventh frame to score six runs and win the game 9-8. Catcher Ticcony of the Wingers and Umpire Hasbroke watch for the throw to the plate. (Official U. S. navy photo.)



Vols, USC Set for Rose Bowl Fracas

PASADENA, Calif., Dec. 30 (AP)—With an anxious eye on the weather reports, Southern California's Trojans and the Tennessee Volunteers today put the finishing touches on their respective offenses for the New Year's Day Rose Bowl clash.

The weatherman has hinted there may be rain in the offing. The Trojans are rated by some of the experts as 17-point favorites, but a slippery ball might put a crimp in their high-greased passing attack and give a boost to the Vols' solid ground game.

Tennessee is pinning its hopes on a backfield quartet, a every member of which has averaged better than five yards per carry this season. While the Trojans have a better-than-fair running attack themselves, they make no bones about the importance of Captain Jim Hardy's passing.

If the weather remains clear and dry, the Trojans promise to come up with an offensive surprise or two. Coach Jeff Cravath had the boys running through some fast stuff yesterday.

Vol Coach John Barnhill stressed backfield timing on single wing plays, and had Buster Stephens, ace freshman half-back, throwing a lot of passes. The Vols have not done much passing to date, but may be forced to open up Monday.

Paavo Katonen applies an arm bar to Jack Kiser in a match which Kiser won by taking two out of three falls from Paavo. Jack used his pet "alligator clutch" to obtain both of his tumbles, while Katonen took the only fall he gained with a hangman's hold. Kiser is the present Pacific coast light-heavyweight champion.

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Aggie Five Wins Fourth Cage Crown

OKLAHOMA CITY, Dec. 30 (AP)—The Oklahoma Aggies, the perennial cage champs who swept to their fourth all-college basketball tournament crown last night with a 43-34 triumph over Arkansas' altitudinous quintet, won two places on the "all-star" team chosen by tournament officials.

Aggies chosen were Bob Kurland, the seven-foot sensation at center, who was the lone unanimous choice, and Weldon Kern, an all-around whizbang at forward. Kurland also received the "most valuable player" award.

But the losers shared in the glory. "Parson" Bill Flynn, acclaimed the classiest guard of the three-day competition, won recognition for Arkansas by gaining a guard spot.

Huskies Dump Zags, 59-48; Beavers Win

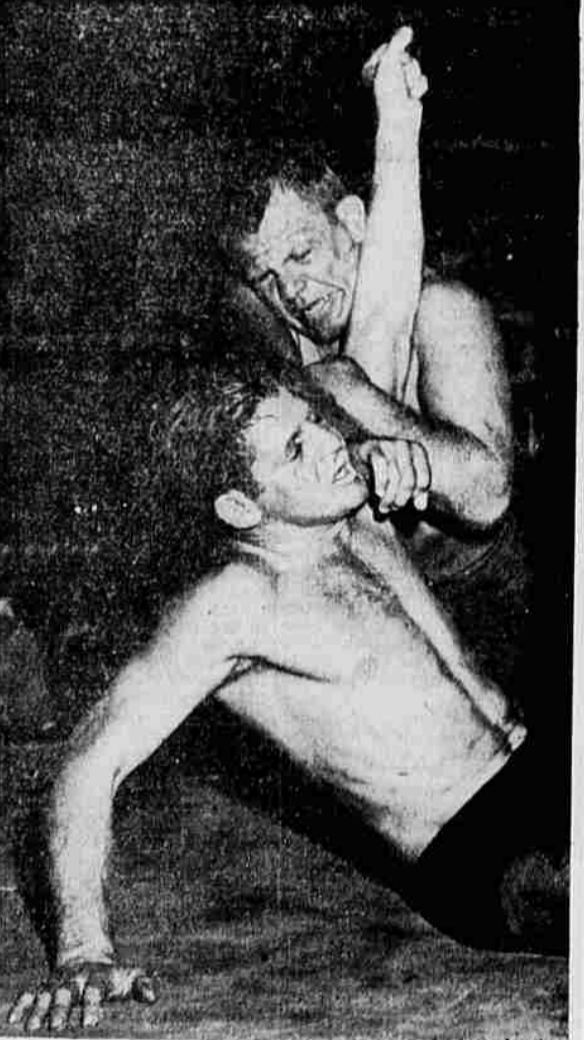
By The Associated Press

Four of the five northern division, Pacific Coast conference basketball squads saw action last night—and each came off victorious to show they were nearing readiness for the fast-approaching season's openers.

Two of the contests were against major opponents, Washington moving out a 22-3 first quarter lead against Gonzaga and then holding on for a 59-48 win. Oregon State blasted the six held over conference squads by dumping the strong Fee's Music Makers of Portland, 40-25.

Idaho handed Fort George Wright its second loss in as many nights, 54-36, with O'Connor, enabling Jack to use his famed "alligator clutch" to take the fall and the bout.

In the curtain-raiser, Jackson used his usual rotter tactics, which, by the way, are growing a trifle time-worn to the cash customers, and Moss awarded the duke to Milt Olsen, to the approval of the fans.



on its U. S. invasion with a 55-45 win over the Bremerton Rockets after losing to Seattle's Alpine Dairy Thursday night.

The Washington-Gonzaga fracas found the Zags shooting wild in the first period with the Huskies pulling from all angles. Nonetheless it was Henwood, Gonzaga guard, who took high point honors with 21. MacMillan, Washington center, scored 15, all but two coming in the first half.

Yeager Decisions Moran In Close Bout

HOLLYWOOD, Dec. 30 (AP)—Bobby Yeager, 140, Los Angeles fighter, squared matters with Nick Moran, 134, Mexico City, by winning a close decision in a 10-round bout last night. A few weeks ago Moran whipped Yeager with a knockout punch in the first round.

from MIDFIELD

By PAUL HAINES

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Today we wish to devote this column to wishing its readers a very happy new year. We have enjoyed writing this pillar for you the past few months and will continue to do so.

We would like to express our appreciation for the fine way you have borne with us and for the bouquets some of you tossed this way. We even feel grateful for the brickbats that grazed our dome as they made us strive a bit harder to merit your interest and confidence.

We like sports. We like to play at it, watch it, and write about it. We also firmly believe that athletics in a competitive form, or otherwise, form a major contribution to American youth. It has been proven time and again that the American competitive spirit and the physical benefits derived from participation in athletic events have been of great use to more than one GI Joe on some far-flung battlefield.

So once again, we thank you for your interest and forbearance, and once again, **HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

BASKETBALL Results

By The Associated Press

OREGON PREP

Medford 37, Salem 24.
Eugene 46, Myrtle Point 23.
Grant Union (John Day) 26, Garibaldi 21.
McMinnville 31, Vernonia 21.
Central Catholic (Portland) 29, Corvallis 18.
Walla Walla (Wash.) 43, Milton-Freewater 32.

OTHER SCORES

Oregon State 40, Fee's Music Makers (Portland) 25.
Idaho 54, Fort George Wright (Spokane) 36.

Hot Action Seen In Battle Royal

While the crowd roared, six of the top muscle men on the northwest mat circuit slugged it out last night at the armory garden in the featured "battle royal." The boys heaved each other all over the ring, with a few cases of two brothers and a stranger evident when the two twisters decided to gang one of their cronies.

The first two grapplers eliminated were Milt Olsen and Bulldog Jackson, followed by Jack Kiser and "Blood and Guts" Davidson. Thus the winners of the clambake were Tony Ross and Gust Johnson, who butted hips in the headline event.

In this bout, Gloomy Gust emerged on top after Tony had apparently tried to wreak vengeance on Referee Wally Moss for throwing a punch at one of the handlers, an unfortunate incident for all hands. Ross immediately got into an altercation with Wally at the start of the fracas and was doing all right when Johnson spoiled his fun by pulling him off.

Gloomy Gust is no doubt a good rascally, but he is also one

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Huge Crowd To Watch Bowl Tilts

Attendance Expected to Be 100,000 More Than Figure Set For Last Year's Frays

By TED MEIER

NEW YORK, Dec. 30 (AP)—More than 360,000 football fans, nearly 100,000 more than a year ago, are expected to watch the various year-end football bowl games that put the finishing touches on a hectic 1944 campaign.

Serving as an appetizer for the Rose, Sugar, Orange, Cotton, Shrine, Sun and Spaghetti Bowls on New Year's Day is the renewal today of the Blue-Gray (or North-South) struggle at Montgomery, Ala., after a year's lapse. Officials anticipate a capacity crowd of 22,500 for the game that stars two ace forward passers in the former Georgia star, Charlie Trippi, for the South, and Indiana's Bob Hoernschmeyer for the North.

The SRO sign has been hung out for Monday's glamorous struggle. More than 90,000 are expected at the Rose Bowl in California, where highly favored Southern California tangles with undefeated, but tied Tennessee of the Southeast conference.

Down at New Orleans the Sugar Bowl clash between Duke and Alabama figures to draw 70,000, and the East vs. West (Shrine Bowl) encounter at San Francisco 80,000. The East All-Stars and Duke are favored. Eddie Cameron, Duke coach, as expected at the fourth air force in California, where highly favored Southern California tangles with undefeated, but tied Tennessee of the Southeast conference.

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Horvath Will Lead Eastern Grid Eleven

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 30 (AP) Spearheaded by Ohio State's swift All-America Halfback Len Horvath, the east all-stars today were chalked up 2 to 1 favorite over the west as tapering off drills neared the starting lineup for the Shrine's 20th New Year's Intersectional football game.

The east's dean coach, Andy Kerr, picked a tentative backfield built around Horvath to cope with the west's ball packer, Bob Waterfield of University of California at Los Angeles, and heavy sprinkling of service stars.

Nimble despite a bruised ankle, Horvath worked out in the left half position at the early peninsula camp yesterday with a combination quarterbacked by Frank Danciewicz of Notre Dame. Bob Kelly filled in at right half and Vic Kullback, 200-pounder from Minnesota operated at full.

The west drilled three service stars in the same backfield with Waterfield. They are Fullback Bob Kennedy and Left Halfback Forrest Hall of the fourth air force and Right Half Walter Egan, San Francisco coast guard.

Coach Orin (Babe) Hollingbery, plotting to make the best use of Waterfield's bullet passes, appeared happy at discovering Bob Moncrief, Texas A. & M., and Goble Bryant, March Field, tackles, are nifty pass catchers when shifted to end.

because of the inability of the unbeaten, untied Randolph field team to play.

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