

Another Year Of Sport Events Passing Into History

By HALE SCARBROUGH

For one sport in particular—the call of the wild—the year just ending was the biggest and most successful in Klamath basin history. More hunters, local and visiting, bagged more pheasant, deer, geese and ducks in this area during 1945 than ever before.

Shooters flocked into the basin from every western state, the visitors having just as great a share in the game harvest as local hunters and Klamath's fame as a sportsman's paradise mounted in proportion to the shooters hitting the fields.

And all this hunting was done despite a critical shortage of shells that made getting ammunition almost as great a sport as using it. Some ardent shooters stalked a box of shotgun shells with about as much enthusiasm as they would stalk a seven-point buck.

Compared by the number of persons taking an active part, the field and stream sport made all others seem minor. Basketball brought 1945 in locally, just as it is ending the year out. Klamath had two fine teams to watch—the Pelicans, who took second place behind Medford in the conference, and the Marines, one of the classiest service quintets on the coast.

The Leathernecks, you remember, had Red Gilbert, Bill Mills, Eddie Meuth, Joe Donatovich and John Cox as first stringers. A cage fan could go a lifetime without seeing a better game than the 46-44 thriller the Marines took from Portland AAB, or the 55-53 loss to Miramar, or the last-second 46-44 win over Fairfield-Suisun. Also the Marines beat Fee's Music Makers 48-46 and 53-48 and finished the season with a record something like 27 wins and 7 defeats.

Jim Palmer, Pelican forward and high scorer, was picked on the all-conference team, along with four Medford boys, and seems sure to repeat this year. Jim Noreen and Bud Blehn were on the second team.

Close to 2000 basketball fans packed into the KUHS gym to see the Marines drop a 68-60 thriller to Shannon's of Portland in the March of Dimes benefit.

Boxing also occupied the local limelight for a while last spring. The Leatherneck stable had Charlie Harris, Johnnie Gates, Lito Perez, Rudy Salazar and Mike Alfano and they fought several cards with the KNAS stable of Al Burkhardt, Tom Bryant, Bruce Cragham, Harold Winkler, Robert Hittson and Glen Williams.

Burkhardt and Harris were the cream of the gloves. The former, who had a lot of ring experience as Kid Silk, beat Alfano and Gates, then was trounced by Harris, who entered the scrapping as a secret weapon for the marines. Charlie had over 60 pro fights and a lot of service bouts as his experience.

General Oregon fishing season in Oregon opened April 14, but some Klamath county areas remained closed until May 12. The trout streams got a big play.

Meanwhile track season was going on. The KUHS cindermen, with Dave Henthorne as star, captured the Southern Oregon-Northern California track meet, with Medford second, then Henthorne won the 100-yard dash, quarter mile, broad jump, and was a member of the relay team to be high-point man at the state meet in Corvallis. The Pels finished third.

About this time American Legion junior baseball began to be talked. The loop with three teams, Conger, Mills and Del Moro, finally was organized, after innumerable difficulties including a wet spring and early summer, and managed to get in two rounds of play. The groundwork laid, junior baseball should really catch hold this summer.

In baseball the Marines and Sailors again fielded teams—the two strongest in the Southern Oregon conference. The Leathernecks climaxed a win streak of 15 straight by copping the Shaughnessy playoff and championship from the Navy 8-5.

The junior ball and service play brought out Klamath Falls' crying need for a decent baseball park. Recreation field, baseball fans decided, was a disgrace to the sport, the bleachers ramshackle and dangerous, the diamond and outfield continually in need of care. The Marines also stumbled into another hazard to play in that foul balls over the fence were very seldom returned. They had irate householders and yard dogs to contend with

when chasing balls, but solved one part of the problem by hiring neighborhood kids who were quicker and smarter than the dogs. Swimming also came to the front in popularity when the Marine Barracks pool was opened to Klamath swimmers, and the two water carnivals staged out there were hailed as the best aquatic shows ever presented here.

The American Legion made about \$450 to be used in promoting junior baseball here off the sports extravaganza at Recreation park when Jesse Owens, great Negro sprinter, raced Pat Hogue's 4-year-old filly, Just Susan. The horse won. Also the Harlem Globetrotters beat the House of David baseball team 12-2 before an overflow crowd.

Over 2000 half-grown Mongolian pheasants were released in the basin during the latter part of August. The season started October 18. California deer season opened September 16, and the Oregon shooting started September 29. The state game commission issued only 800 antelope tags and limited the kills to bucks with ear-length horns, which drew cat-calls from plenty of hunters.

Football practice at KUHS started September 1. The Pelicans beat Salem, Ashland and Bend, and lost to Grant, Medford, Grants Pass, Eureka, and Eugene. Bob Redkey and Tommy Edwards were the backfield flashes for the Pels.

No mention has yet been made of wrestling. Capacity crowds at the armory this year were normal for the Friday night cards and grapplers too numerous to mention—some of the favorites were the Grey Mask, Rough Rufus Jones, Bulldog Jackson, Angelo Martinielli, Pete Belcastro, George Wagner, Sneezie Acheli, Georges Dusette, Kenny Ackles, Buck Davidson—put on great bouts for the customers.

And now basketball season is back, wildfowl season closes Monday and the sports cycle is almost complete.

Feeling Growing That Odds For Alabama Are Too High

'Good For Wartime' Label Put On Tide; Southern Cal May Be Toughest Yet

PASADENA, Calif., Dec. 28 (AP)—Call it what you will, there's a growing feeling around here that odds making Alabama a 13-point favorite over Southern California in the Rose Bowl are out of line.

Southern California sports writers took a good look at Alabama yesterday and found the Crimson Tide on the thin side. So thin and youthful, the writers began expressing doubt concerning the Tide's ability to withstand the battering of the Trojan behemoths on New Year's Day.

Even Vaughn Mancha, "Bama's tanklike all-America center, to some seemed shy of his listed weight of 240 pounds.

There was, however, no quibbling about Alabama's speed nor Harry Gilmer's graceful pass pitching. It was just that some observers wondered whether Alabama in amassing nine straight wins and 306 points to opponents' 68 had met any team as big and tough as the Trojans.

"Georgia, Tennessee and LSU were the only really strong teams we met this season," general Frank Thomas, Alabama coach, admits. He candidly calls his own southeastern champions "a good wartime team."

But Coach Thomas unreservedly endorses the 19-year-old Gilmer as "the greatest passer I've ever seen." This from the man who coached Dixie Howell.

Statistics bear out Thomas' assertion that "I've got a good bunch of kids." The 34-man squad averages 20 years 1 month, and includes six 17-year-olds. The weight average is 184 pounds.

Stacked up against the Trojans' top 34 players, the southerners are shy 14 pounds. The USC squad averages 198.6 pounds and 21 years even. There is only one 17-year-old on the Trojan roster.

Alabama's regulars, however, include Mancha, 23; John Wozniak, 24, and John Green, 22, at guards; Tackle Lee Flowers, 23, and Quarterback Harold Self, 23. The crimson-clad starters will average 185 pounds, only eight below USC's 193.

The Trojans will have a nine-pound bulge in the line and six behind—plus the two oldest players, Quarterback Jerry Bowman, 26, and Tackle John Aguirre, 25.

Actually, both squads are that curious wartime mixture of older, discharged servicemen and callow, undrafted kids. The weight and age factors may prove negligible compared to speed and spirit, which Alabama undoubtedly has.

But local critics, it seems, will have to be shown.

It was nip-and-tuck the first 14 minutes. Oregon's Bob Hamilton, Ken Hays and Hoffine combined to put the Ducks ahead, 23-20. The game saved briefly, ending at halftime with a 29-28 edge for Fee's.

Oregon ran up a 38-33 lead after 10 minutes of the second half. Charlie Patterson and Perkins dumped in goals to cut the Webfoot lead to 38-37, and Fee's—after a 42-42 tie—began the winning rally.

Fee's man-for-man defense kept Oregon's Dick Wilkins, third high northern division, coast conference scorer last year, from making a single field goal.

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SPORTS

More Bowl Games If Fans Want

MONTGOMERY, Ala., Dec. 28—The more the merrier—so long as the public wants 'em. That was the attitude expressed by some of the nation's big-name football coaches today toward an increasing number of post-season bowl games.

In answer to an Associated Press questionnaire, they discounted fear that more attempts to out-of-season play would adversely affect college competition.

Nor did they agree restrictive action may become necessary. Only one of six famed college gridiron directors here for tomorrow's Blue-Gray contest voiced opposition to extending the post-season field.

"Only teams with real good records should be allowed to play," observed Matty Bell, coach at Southern Methodist.

The others—Lynn Waldorf of Northwestern, Bernie Moore of Louisiana State, Ray Morrison of Temple, Bobby Dodd of Georgia Tech, and Maryland's Paul (Bear) Bryant—offered no objections.

Morrison, however, put in this suggestion: Restrict bowl competition in favor of more bowl games, as did Dodd. Said the Georgia Tech mentor: "I think they keep up interest in football and improve the play."

Dodd contended that increased competition was justified by the fans' renewed interest in sports during and after the war.

Waldorf qualified his endorsement with the observation that "bowl games are O. K., if the players are consulted and really want to play." He said, too, that practice and travel should be arranged so that they would not interfere too much with school work.

All the coaches except Bryant are here to handle the Blue-Gray teams. The Maryland navy veteran was a visitor.

They agreed unanimously that football interest was due for an even greater upward swing, and Moore predicted it would continue so "for at least 10 years."

New York Pros May Train In Idaho

SPOKANE, Dec. 28 (AP)—The Chronicle said today the New York Yankees of the new American Professional Football league might select Hayden Lake, Idaho, for a 1946 fall training site.

The paper quoted "unofficial sources in Coeur d'Alene" as saying Coach Ray Flaherty of the Yankees already had made preliminary arrangements to bring his squad to the resort.

Coach Flaherty previously brought the Washington Redskins to Eastern Washington college at Cheney when he was coaching that team and also brought the same squad to Spokane another year.

FALL RIVER, Mass.—Oscar St. Pierre, 148, Fall River, outpointed Archie Gibbons, 140, Albany, N. Y., (10). Alex Rebar, 168, Pawtucket, outpointed Al Pinel, 160, New Bedford (6).

K-Men Have Improved Cage Team

Craig Only Doubtful Starter Against Longview Tomorrow

Only one man of the Pelican starting five is in the doubtful category as the K-men go into final practice before their meeting with the powerful Longview, Wash., quintet on the KUHS hardwood tomorrow night.

Ray Craig, first-string guard, hurt his hip in a tie-up at Grants Pass last weekend and if the injury is still bothering him at game time either Bob Redkey or Tommy Edwards will get the starting nod at the back court position.

The remainder of the Pelican lineup will have Jim Palmer and Gene Hover at forwards, Jerry Thorne at center, and Leroy Coleman at guard.

Coach Dutch French considers his gang a much-improved ball-handling machine since the Pels copped the Rogue River tourney at Grants Pass, and the defense has particularly sparkled in workouts.

French is ankle-deep in good players for every position. His reserves include John Lindman, Bill Crawford, Clarence Bussman and Joe Zarozinski at forwards, Bill McLean and Joe Farrell, centers, and Redkey and Edwards, guards.

The Longview team, mentored by Buck Hammer, sends advance notice of being a hard team to beat. Hammer is well known here, a former Pelican football coach, and he has refused to bring his Longview teams down until this year, saying that he would wait until he had a good one.

Tomorrow night's tilt will honor all former Pel basketball players and student managers, especially those who have just recently returned from the service. They will be admitted free and have reserved seats along the bench.

The game starts at 8 o'clock. Admission will be by season tickets or ducats purchased at the gate.

Rival Grid Coaches Are Put On Spot

NEW ORLEANS, Dec. 28 (AP) Coaches of the rival Sugar Bowl football teams today observed the traditional pre-game ceremony of putting each other on the spot.

Coach Jim Lookabaugh of Oklahoma A. & M. said the bookmakers' selection of his club to win by two touchdowns was without foundation in reason. Coach Jim Phelan of St. Mary's said the margin was too small.

"The odds don't mean a thing," declared Lookabaugh at Biloxi, Miss., where his Cow-boys are training for the January 1 game here. "Look at the way the weaker professional football and baseball teams knock off the stronger ones during a season."

"If anybody could figure the odds on the football game there wouldn't be much use in playing it. We take 'em all even and do the best we can."

"Only two touchdowns?" remarked Phelan, prepping his Gels at Gulfport, also on the Mississippi coast. "If I were a gambler I'd say that was conservative. After all, we're playing boys against their men. And their advantage in reserve strength is a major factor."

"Of course, I realize the weather probabilities make it difficult to offer more than two touchdowns on any game. If it's a muddy field nobody can run away. But I'd rather see a clear day and have the issue settled."

Whitely, in his ESTABLISHMENT above Al's place, said: "It's still St. Mary's plus 12 points or A. & M. minus 14."

Near Riot Causes Shift Of Game

DALLAS, Tex., Dec. 28 (AP)—A near riot here today by crowds seeking tickets to Saturday's state high school championship game between Highland Park (Dallas) and Waco caused officials to transfer the affair from 23,000-capacity Ownby stadium to the 45,000-capacity Cotton Bowl. More than 25,000 requests were received before tickets went on sale.

BANGTAILS RUN INTO DOUGH

By BILL BECKER
ARCADIA, Calif., Dec. 28 (AP) Horse racing—which hit a tremendous pace in California this year—goes into its postwar, or super-colossal, phase tomorrow with the opening of a 55-day winter meeting at Santa Anita.

With unprecedented munificence, Los Angeles Turf club officials have posted stakes aggregating \$650,000 and including not one, but two "hundred-grander"—the Santa Anita handicap and the Derby. In addition, Santa Anita will offer five \$50,000 events and eight stakes for \$25,000 apiece. Lowest individual purse will be \$3000.

A \$25,000 race, the California

Breeders stakes for two-year-olds, is the opening day feature at one mile and may attract 18 starters, boosting the gross value of the event to some \$39,000.

Listed as definite starters in their final appearance as juveniles are Miss Rosemary Ryan's Slye Prince, pre-race favorite; L. B. Mayer's entry of Honey-money, Moneybags and Charivari; Luke and Sneed's Bar Willie, Harry Isenberg's Going Wit Me, Binnacle Bob, War Sun, and Lady Anita. Nine others have been nominated.

The winner will be crowned champion California two-year-old for 1945.

Granted good weather, the track expects 40,000 patrons and \$3,000,000 in wagering on the first day. And from there on, business will pick up. A look at the 1945 Santa Anita figures—although for a late spring meeting—will show why the moolah flows like water in sunny Arcadia.

Bettors chunked \$87,634,421 in the pari-mutuels during the 40-day meet, for a daily average of \$2,190,860. On handicap day, \$3,813,300 was wagered, \$791,837 on the cap alone.

That isn't quite up to Belmont's four-million dollar takes, but it's quite an upsurge for Santa Anita, up in only its ninth season.

Red Ryder



Wash Tubbs



Boots and Her Buddies



Alley Oop



Freckles and His Friends



Little Orphan Annie



By Fred Hermon



By Leslie Turner



By Martin



By V. T. Hamlin



By Blosser



By Harold Gray

