

RIDIN' HERD

EXIT THE GEMS.
A bright local sports picture is darkened this week by the death of professional baseball in Klamath Falls.

It comes definitely as the sports fatality of the year on the local front—but it also comes with no surprise tag.

The league has been floundering around in red ink for the last two years of its four-year existence.

The big solar-plexus blow came, of course, last year when league officials voted to put the league on a home-and-home financial basis.

That means in simple terms that home teams got the money, the visitors got the trip—and that's all.

THE LEAGUE'S BRASS woke up this year to a late call in the 60-60 split—but it was too late.

The league—virtually every member—was already riddled with indebtedness.

The Klamath Falls club, to take just one, is currently wallowing in a \$20,000 pot of red ink. Part of that is coming to Uncle Sam, a guy that doesn't like to wait for his money.

But still the directors of the Gems were planning to go ahead and play baseball. And the money-raising plan was in the formative stage.

This corner's compliments go to the directors for their willingness to keep pitching despite a 20-grand deficit that faced them.

They wanted to go ahead BECAUSE THEY FELT THAT PROFESSIONAL BASEBALL IS SOMETHING WE SHOULDN'T LOSE.

THEY WERE RIGHT.
We do need professional baseball. Hundreds of local baseball fans are hard hit by the announcement that there will be no league this year.

The Gems would have somehow kept operating this year.

But you can't play if there's no one to play with.

Redding and Medford, I'm told, just plain threw in the sponge at Monday's league meeting in Redding.

That left three teams with no choice but to follow suit.

THE STORY of the end of professional baseball here is made additionally sad for those who've been around baseball for some time.

Because they know that Jerry Donovan's announcement that the league would take a year's holiday to straighten its finances, then bounce back in the running again, is pure and simple "sour grapes."

And Donovan knows it too.

There have been few instances—so few that none come immediately to mind—where a town waved goodbye to professional baseball, then came back in.

The sportswriting boys at Medford told me that Donovan "expressed optimism that the Far West league would be operating next year in 1953."

Sounds good and makes a good story.

But Donovan has been around baseball too long. His tongue was in his cheek—but "we'll be back."

KIRK HERRICK, business manager of the local club, had another story to tell.

"Donovan was almost in tears," Herrick said.

Naturally, because the league proxy who also heads the California State league, knows that it will be five or ten years—IF AT ALL—before there's another Far West league, at least comprised of the teams that folded Monday.

Collapsing a league is a wammy. Major league clubs will immediately switch their affections now and look for other places to place Class D ball clubs.

Don't be surprised if California pops with a Class D league.

When the major leagues pull out, they seldom come back. And a Class D league needs affiliations with major league baseball.

Say, for hypothetical cases, the now-defunct Far West league cranks up again next year.

Players will be as scarce as straight Bourbon at a church convention.

Those that may be on the loose will look with some skepticism on a league that may fold the next week or month.

I CAN BE WRONG.
I hope I am. I'll be the first to welcome back professional baseball here.

But I can't cook up any optimism along these lines.

TIME OUT!

Looks like they've discovered Texas' defensive weakness!

SHUFF STUFF

The second night of shuffleboarding last night saw Suburban blank Roundup, 4-0; Tal's shut out the Eagles and Bill's Place and Seamus Tavern split, 2-2. Games tonight will close out this week's play.

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Pels, Owls Await Loop Openers

Klamath Home To Medford

By RED HURD
The Pelicans are currently labeled as the best high school team in Oregon according to the accumulated opinion of the state's sportswriters and sportscasters affiliated with the Associated Press.

The Black Tornado of Medford barely slipped into the first week's poll with a tenth-place honorable mention vote.

That, two days before Klamath Falls and Medford open Dist. 4 play Friday and Saturday nights on Pelican Court, gives the Pels a bulky edge on paper.

But Frank Rossman will bring his team here holding a big psychological edge.

OPEN LEAGUE
It all makes for a touch-and-go series as the two Southern Oregon powers launch league campaigns they hope lead to a place in the state finals.



JACK HORTON, whose basket sent the Pelicans into an overtime victory over Bend Saturday night, will be at a forward spot Friday night when the Klamath five hosts Medford in the Dist. 4 opener.

March state tournament.
Paul McCall's Pels fly a 6-1 record in pre-league games. In the same number of King's X outings, Medford has won five, lost three.

On the win side of the books, the Tornado count Corvallis (twice), Cottage Grove, Reedsport and Coquille as its victims.

Redding, Roseburg and University High of Eugene have dealt Medford in setbacks.

WEIRD TIE
Comparative-wise, the Pels tied Redding in a game that saw the official scorer lose his mathematics and edged the Shastas the next night, 42-39.

Other Klamath Falls victories have been at the expense of Springfield twice, Bend twice and Central Catholic. The Portland Catholic five handed the Pels their only loss in the rematch.

Rocelandt will have three of last season's regulars on his squad. They are Don Spinas, Dennis Conner and Ed Bingham.

Jim Holloway, member of last year's state B championship Phoenix team, is a transfer who promises to help Medford.

READY
McCall said yesterday that Calvin Gilmore, who saw last brief action in the Bend series, will be at full strength for the district opener with Medford. Gilmore dislocated a finger in scrimmages last week.

With the often under-rated psychological factor riding on Medford's side, the Pelicans will need Gilmore, who teams with whiz-bang Jerry Johnson in the guard positions.

Big Ralph Carroll is at center while Radar Ray Bell and Jack Horton hold down the forward spots.

The Klamath junior varsity occupies the 6:45 preliminary spot both nights, meeting Klamath Pack of the Victory League Friday night, the Medford Jayvees Saturday.

Wolves Host To Oretch

With a respectable 7-4 record in non-counters under their belts, the Oregon Tech Owls start playing for the blue chips in a Friday-Saturday basketball series against the Oregon College Wolves.

The two-game cage set, opening Oregon Collegiate Conference shooting for both teams, shows OCE's Monmouth court.

Vanport leads the OCE circuit, scoring two wins over Eastern Oregon College last weekend.

Pre-league activity points up a wealth of comparison between the Owls and the Wolves.

The Monmouth five has won four, lost three.

Two of the wins and the same number of losses have been against Southern Oregon College.

SPLIT
The Wolves split with Linfield in a series of close contests, the same team the Owls beat 67-54 in a single showing.

The other OCE triumph was over Pacific University.

Oretch's record against the Raiders of Southern Oregon hasn't been as impressive.

Three of the Owls' losses have been to the Ashland quint. The Hilltoppers won one from SOCE.

The fourth loss was to Humboldt State in Arcata, Calif., over the weekend, but the Owls won the return scuffle Saturday night.

GRAND SLAMS
The other four wins by the Owls have been two-game grand-slams over the now-defunct Lassen JC team and Shasta College of Redding.

Art Kirkland has made another switch for the OCE series.

Wayne Holzhusz will open at center and Homer Duncan goes back to his forward spot to work with Jack Pinkley.

Guards are Deadeye Don Sulphin and Len Gentry.

Tom Schubert will go back to a forward spot along with Jerry Wyatt on the second team. John Koch understudies Holzhusz at center.

Jack Brown has been boosted up from the Jayvees for the trip at a guard position.

The good news is the return of Mary Hammack, letterman guard. Hammack broke his wrist Dec. 7 against SOCE and has been on the shelf since.

WILL HELP
Kirkland said he wasn't in shape to go "full speed ahead," but he'll help.

The other two spots on the 12-man player squad that leaves Thursday morning are open until just before departure, Kirkland said.

Big gun for the Wolves is letterman Harold Pitcher, who operates at center, although just six feet tall.

Other lettermen on the OCF team are Howard Sullivan, last year's leading scorer, and Bob Bushnell, "most valuable player" on the 1950-51 team.



READY—Oretch letterman guard Marv Hammack, after an early-season injury, is ready to go again against Oregon College in Monmouth Friday and Saturday nights. Coach Art Kirkland said Hammack would see "at least limited duty" in the first action since he broke his wrist.

SPORTS

Webfoots Puff Lead In Northern Chase

EUGENE, Ore.—Oregon kept its role as early pace-setter in the Northern Division, Pacific Coast Conference, basketball race Tuesday night with a 59-45 triumph over Washington State.

The win gave the Ducks a sweep of the two-game series and left them alone atop the standings with a perfect record for the still-young season.

The Cougars, who lost to Oregon by the same score Monday night, were in the cellar with one win against three losses. The division's three other teams have a win and a loss apiece.

Oregon dominated the play almost from the start. Paced by Forward Bob Peterson, who captured 26 rebounds to break the Coast Conference record of 21 he set Monday night, the Ducks pulled out in front early in the opening period and were never headed. They led 27-20 at the half and 43-

30 at the end of the third quarter.

Center Chet Noe and Guard Ken Hunt each posted 15 points for Oregon for scoring honors. Center George Rosser was high for WSC with eight.

Packers, Metlers In Wins

Metler Bros. spanked DeMolay and Klamath Pack got by Crater Lake in the Victory League cage agenda last night at Fairview.

Tex Robinson led Metler's 46-17 romp over DeMolay with 11 points. Klamath Pack distributed its scoring among Dean Lowell (8), Herb Barrett (8), Chick Quinowski (8) and Gary Clark (7) in its 38-31 win over Crater Lake. George Hanson and Louie Taucher had 8 and 7 for the Craters.

Box score:

METLER (46):
Hoetter 7 F, 4 Pickett 11 F, 4 Cheyne 5 F, 3 Robinson 11 G, 2 Metler 7 G, 1 Thompson 1 G

DEMOLOY (17):
Dow 4, Crawford 1, Lyons 2, Roberts 3, DeMolay sub-Vibak, Smith 2, Schender 2, Hoelzman, Cummings 2, Porter

CRATER (31):
St. Jovel 4, Lowell 8, Hanson 8 F, 4 Barrett 8 C, 3 Dixon 7 G, Flora 7 G, Crater subs—Miller 2, Taucher 7, Sprague, Packer subs—Overen, Wright, Quinowski 2, Oldham.

The Hershey Bears of the American Hockey League have missed the post-season playoffs once in 13 years. That was in the 1949-50 season.

Hutchinson Dunks 30

Franklin Hutchinson waxed hot last night to dunk 30 points in Bly's 64-53 win over Klamath Wildcatters on Bly's floor.

Bly led most of the way and held a 39-37 halftime lead. Davis scored 15 for Klamath, while Donnie Wessell added 18 to Hutchinson's 30 for Bly.

Box score:
WILD-CATS (53):
Chafield 2 F, 18 Westell Summers 4 F, 7 M. Martin Davis 15 F, 2 Dillaway Bevans 11 G, 30 Hutchinson Armstrong 11 G, 30 Hutchinson Wildcat subs—Chase 8, Gordy 4, Martin, Bly subs—J. Martin, Winfield, Cannon, Hadley.

GRIZZLIES
Gilchrist lost a 37-20 non-league basketball decision to Lapine last night on the losers' floor.

Lapine also won the junior high preliminary over the Grizzlies by a 21-20 squeak.

Bowling

LADYBUG LEAGUE

| | | | |
|------------------|----|----|-----|
| Schneck's | 34 | 18 | 524 |
| Snoop-Schultz | 31 | 21 | 549 |
| Molator's | 28 | 24 | 538 |
| Marvin's | 24 | 28 | 462 |
| Roundup | 20 | 32 | 385 |
| Lowell's Lockers | 19 | 33 | 362 |

Last Week's Results
Snoop-Schultz 4 Roundup 9
Marvin's 3 Lowell's 1
Schneck's 3 Molator's 1

Although bowling, 3-1, to Al Schneck's bowlers, third-place Molator's copped three-fourths of the honors in the Ladybug Kegling circuit last week.

Schneck's had the high team series, a 2464 performance, but Molator's notched a high game, 880 and two of its bowlers came through for individual laurels.

Marie Fields rolled a 207 high game, Dorothea Koberg a 483 high series.

None of the team or individual marks were high enough to earn a place in the season's Big Three, however.

Panthers Upset Bonanza

Chiloquin served notice last night it may be the team to watch in the upcoming Klamath County Class B championship tournament when it whipped the highly-rated Bonanza Antlers by a 52-44 count at Bonanza, a non-league game.

The Panthers jumped into an early eight-point lead before Bonanza scored. But the Antlers started rolling and tied Chiloquin, 25-24, at intermission.

Gene Gentry led the Panthers with 21 points in one of the best scoring exhibitions this season in county play.

Chiloquin had its big quarter after the rest period, running up a 44-34 three-quarter lead.

Chiloquin won the Jayvee preliminary over Bonanza, 40-32.

Game Comish

PORTLAND—The State Game Commission will meet with sportsmen Friday to discuss changes in angling regulations.

Final regulations for 1952 will be announced two weeks later.



CRUNCH—Kurt Von Poppenheim applies the headlock on a helpless victim in a recent match here. But the big German will have to have his headlocks in working order tonight to beat Pete Belcastro, the Weed Assassin.

Belcastro Returns Tonight

Pete Belcastro, whose name is a by-word among wrestling goers here, returns tonight to the armory ring before an expected jammed house of customers.

Belcastro meets Kurt Von Poppenheim, the arrogant, sadistic German, in the main event of an all-star card.

It's a blazing start to the new year of matfare, one that will probably set records for mayhem that will be hard to break.

The semi-windup also promises more out-of-ring action than in legal territory. This one puts Herbie Terry Parks against Gene Blakely, the rugged rodeo performer.

Herb's brother, Billy the Kid, mixes with Yorg Creterian in the opener at 8:30. Creterian, dubbed the Rumanian Ape in rings to the north, will be making his first appearance here.

Trojans Wallop Hornets

By DAVE UNDERHILL
Sacred Heart's Trojans continued their scourging of County Loop opposition with a convincing 47-28 win over Henley last night at the Academy gym.

Though not counting in league standings, the Academy's win showed it will take hard pressing to rob the Trojans of the county bubble this year.

Henley hit the scoring column first with a push shot from the side by Guard Gordon Ramsey. But bulldozing Ray Beard and Bob Howard soon knotted the count at 2-2 with gift shots, and the Trojans forged ahead to a first quarter 11-6 lead.

The slow scoring pace continued as the Academy five managed to double its margin, leaving the floor at halftime with a 21-10 lead.

Lead by Substitute Forward Wayne Neubert—a deadeye from side court with one header—the Trojans coasted along to a 21-21 advantage at the three-quarter mark. Neubert took top scoring honors, Henley's A. Beez, rounded the Trojans, 37-20, in a preliminary.

Smith Top Trapsman

R. M. Smith was the top shooter at 16 yards when the Klamath Gun Club held its first regular shoot Sunday on its Wocus traps. Smith hit 48 targets of 50.

Nelson Reed and Bill Davis tied in the handicap competition with 45.50 scores.

Gun Club Pres. Vern Moore is extending a cordial welcome to the public at the club's Sunday shoots. Starting time is 10:30 a.m.

Sunday's results:

| | | |
|--------------|----|----|
| Smith | 48 | 43 |
| Reed | 47 | 42 |
| Davis | 47 | 41 |
| Moore | 47 | 41 |
| Bundell | 46 | 45 |
| Stranahan | 43 | 41 |
| Broyles | 42 | 32 |
| Moore | 42 | 38 |
| Bud Cloake | 42 | 38 |
| C. J. Martin | 40 | 41 |
| Balsiger | 40 | 40 |
| Driscoll | 40 | 40 |
| Grant | 38 | 40 |
| Miles | 33 | 33 |
| Mrs. Cloake | 31 | 31 |
| Hilton | 28 | 31 |
| Pieruccini | 28 | 31 |

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