

'Sharp Elbows Help', Grins Johnny-O

By MURRAY OLDERMAN
NEA Staff Correspondent

NEW YORK — (NEA) — Playing the pool was Johnny O'Brien's self-inspiration.

That may not be a statement of great portent, but the point-blazing Seattle University star happens to be only five feet nine inches tall.

It's like Lanny Gomez looking to bat clean-up for the Yankees of Murderer's Row days. Just one difference — O'Brien comes through while every coach forages the country for the maddening goons who dominate basketball, the little Irishman bounces around, under and inbetween over them on his way to college basketball's greatest scoring returns.

"We were playing Western Washington in Bellingham in my third varsity game three years ago," recounts O'Brien, a dark-haired pleasant 21-year-old, "and things were going lousy. So I asked Coach A. Brightman if I could go into the pool.

NO WORSE

"Can't do any worse," he said. And here I am."

En route the referee from South Astoria, N. J., has tallied more than 2500 points. Before the season is finished, he should become the first collector to top 3000.

"Most important item in pool play," he says, "is position. A pair of sharp elbows helps, too," with a smile. "Here, feel."

True enough, Johnny's funny bone comes to an incisor point. He held a memorable scolding joust with the Harlem Globetrotters' George Tatum, had the veteran yelling for mercy.

He has had to oppose 6-11 giants like Marcus Freiburger of the AAU champion Peoria Caterpillars, against whom he scored 32 points.

How does he do it?

QUICKER

"I hope I'm quicker than the big man and move around him. If he'll go for my first fake, I can shoot over him, too."

En route to make those more difficult, Seattle opponents have two O'Brien's to contend with. There's Johnny's identical twin, Eddie, at "ward."

"In his own right," says Coach Brightman, "Eddie's just as good a basketball player. As an outside man, he doesn't shoot as much as John, but he's been hitting better in 50 per cent. Johnny goes for hooks and jumps. Eddie's more the pro type little man with his wing sets."



THE AMAZING O'BRIENS—The identical O'Brien twins wowed Madison Square Garden as their Seattle University team edged New York University by the record total score of 102-101. Eddie comes down after contributing two more points to his 33. Ralph Naimoli of NYU follows the play. Johnny leaps high to fire one-hander into basket enroute to his 29. Unable to do anything about it is the Violet's Ted Elsborg.

The twins became the darlings of Madison Square Garden in the record 102-101 victory scored by Seattle over New York University. They accounted for 62 points.

The O'Brien brothers (John's four minutes older) at a range of 109 minutes prefer basketball to basketball.

Yet not so strange when you know that the Pittsburgh Pirates' Branch Rickey played into New York City the holiday season to discuss the O'Brien's baseball future.

To basketball, there's no question. John is a shortstop, Eddie an

TROJANS PICKED

Owies Whip Skagit, 77-62

Badgers' Carl May Sit Out

PASADENA, Calif. (AP) — Southern California was still a one-touchdown favorite over Wisconsin Wednesday as the teams ran through final drills before the New Year's Day Rose Bowl game.

Both coaches Jess Hill of the Trojans and Ivy Williamson of the Badgers ordered secret practice to perfect plays for the classic.

For the 100,000 who will see the game in the bowl and the millions who plan to watch it on television, the contest will present a true picture of two schools of thought on offensive tactics—the T-formation of Wisconsin and the single wing of Southern California.

Williamson, one of the most thorough students of the game, employs a straight T-formation—or least he has done this all season.

Hill teaches the single wing from a balanced line. The man to watch is generally the left halfback, who executes most of the plays himself after a direct pass back from the center.

TOP JOCK



TONY DESPIRITO ... breaks saddle record

TONY RIDES 389TH

By GENE FLOWDEN

MIAMI, Fla. (AP) — The turf world Wednesday hailed a new riding champion in apprentice jockey Tony Despirito, who hoped to boost his record of 389 winners for the year still higher on the final program.

The dark-eyed, 18-year-old Lawrence, Mass., boy rode four winners in seven mounts at Tropical Park Tuesday to better the old mark of 388 set by Walter Miller here in 1950.

Joe Culmone and Willie Shoemaker equaled Miller's record in 1950 but few other jockeys have approached it in all racing history.

Only eight American jockeys have ridden more than 300 winners in a year.

Despirito, quiet, soft-spoken son of an unemployed textile worker, became the darling of race followers in less than 12 full months of riding.

He broke the record with skill and determination in spite of ill-luck that followed him most of the way.

Jockeys are permitted to ride two races before applying for a license and Tony, who pronounces his surname with emphasis on "Spirit," rode his first race at Rockingham Park, Salem, N. H., in the fall of 1951.

After watching that effort, stewards told him he had much to learn and couldn't ride any more for the present.

His father, Anthony, Sr., took him to Florida and on Jan. 22, 1952, young Tony brought in his first winner on Great Shuffie.

NOT READY

Again, stewards told him he wasn't ready.

J. H. Carr, his contract employer, gave him some pep talks and jockey Bob Wholley of Pittsburgh added additional tutoring.

Despirito got his license and won 10 races at Sunshine Park before the track closed and he headed north.

Jockey Louis Olah probably saved Tony's life at Lincoln Downs, R. I. on April 17 when the saddle on his mount slipped and Olah kept him from being thrown to the track. Tony finished the race without stirrups.

He became the eighth American rider to bring in 300 winners in a year when he scored at Rockingham Park on Oct. 24.

HEAD INJURY

He suffered a head injury when thrown from his mount at Lincoln Downs on Nov. 14 and missed six days of racing.

He rode four winners at Tropical Monday and shattered the record with his 389th in the ninth and final race on King's Quest.

Ironically, Marshall Cassidy, assistant secretary of the jockey club, and DeSpirito Park steward, presented DeSpirito with a silver plate in the winner's circle, Cassidy was one of the stewards who had suspended him earlier in the month.

Miller is in a New York sanitarium but Culmone and Shoemaker were quick to extend congratulations and both praised Despirito.

"I'm glad he did it," they both declared. Culmone, competing against him at Tropical Park, said he is "a good rider."

Klamath Slates Ski Race

The First Annual Moore Park Open and Beginners Slalom races are to be held at the park on Sunday, Jan. 4, at 1:30 p.m., according to an announcement from the City Recreation Office today.

There are to be four classes of entries, and blanks are available both at the recreation office in the City Hall. Entries should be turned in by noon Saturday, and drawings will be held following that deadline.

However, late entries will be accepted Sunday.

The four classifications include: Boys and girls up to age 12. Girls between the ages of 12 and 16. Boys between the ages of 12 and 16. Open (all skiers, nonprofessional).

Local merchants are putting up trophies and prizes for this affair, the first local ski competition of any kind in many years. Jim Pinner and John Young are co-chairmen of the affair.

Spectators should find adequate watching-space at the Moore Park run.

TIME OUT!



"No, they're not serious injuries—they'll be able to play football again in two or three weeks!"

Schubert High With 20 Points

Coach Art Kirkland juggled his starting line-up last night in Mt. Vernon, Wash., and apparently it paid off. At least the Owls whipped Skagit Valley Junior College, 77-62, to bring its season record to four wins and five losses.

Jerry Wyatt was the only regular who started last night and the high-scoring forward was in the center slot.

Don Graham, who got a starting job at forward, dumped 16 points in the first quarter that were instrumental in giving the Owls an 18-14 first-quarter lead. They stayed ahead the rest of the way, stretching their lead to 39-21 at halftime.

Tom Schubert, a regular who didn't see action until the second frame, scored 14 of his 20 points—the evening's high—in the second quarter.

The Owls picked up speed in the third quarter and were ahead 63-52 going into the last chapter.

Skagit Valley played without its regular center, Daryl Lee, who has been averaging 16 points per game this season. Lee had his tonsils removed.

Bob Benson, a guard, led the forward line with 17 points. Forward Ken Smith had 13.

Oretech came home for a Saturday night date against Southern Oregon.

Box Score:

ORETECH (17) (43) SKAGIT

Graham	16	F	3
Wyatt	8	F	13
Greenwood	8	C	4
Wright	4	G	17
Benson	4	G	17

Oretech subs: Sausser 1, Schubert 20, Koch 5, Humphrey, Butler 1, Genesis 3. Skagit subs: Wisel, Walters 10, Breckinridge 4.

Vandals Face A&M In Finals

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — The expected — Oklahoma A&M — and the surprise — Idaho — clash Wednesday night for the championship of the 17th annual All-College Bowling Tournament.

The Aggies, old hands at winning the oldest of all holiday basketball tournaments, go after their 10th crown and are favored by virtue of their No. 5 ranking in the nation and their season record of nine victories against one defeat.

Idaho, the nation's leading defensive team, surprised everyone with a fine attack to put its season record at seven victories and three defeats.

ACCURATE

A&M exploded with an amazingly accurate night at the bucket and an iron defense to eliminate defending champion Oklahoma City University 75-58 Tuesday night. Idaho easily moved to the final, blazing by Wyoming 66-53.

Western Kentucky, the nation's No. 10 team, beat Tulsa, the No. 8 quintet, 79-70. Tuesday while Penn State stopped Bowling Green 67-56.

Both A&M and Idaho had phenomenal shooting nights.

14 OF 22

During the first half, A&M connected for 14 of 30 field goals and 11 of 13 charities. For the rout, A&M hit 22 of 52 buckets and made 28 of 33 free throws.

Idaho's Vandals hit 48 per cent of their shots in the first half, and ended the game with 36.6 per cent.

Idaho opened the tourney Monday by upsetting favored Western Kentucky 75-60 while the Aggies got by Penn State in the first round 68-61.

O'Brien Pots 41

BOSTON (AP) — Johnny O'Brien went on another scoring spree Tuesday night and once more the Seattle University Chieftains stole the spotlight in a national basketball tournament.

O'Brien dropped in 41 points for a new record as the Chieftains downed Boston College 99-86 in a consolation final of the Boston Invitational Tournament.

Undefeated eorgetown ousted Rhode Island 77-72 in the championship final but it was the play of O'Brien and the Chieftains that brought cheers from the Garden-Arena fans.

O'Brien sank 14 baskets and 13 of 18 free throws to eclipse the old-time game mark of 37 set by Boston College's Elmore Morganthaler against Fordham in 1946.

It was Johnny O's second college scoring record in the Garden-Arena. Monday night he scored 28 points. 16 of them via the foul line to better by two the local record set by Bob Cousy of Holy Cross.

O'Brien's 69 points in two games raised his collegiate four-year record to 2,587. Twin brother Eddie and Stan Glowaski were runner-up for scoring honors, collecting 21 points each.

Johnny O. and Bill Bolger of Georgetown tied for outstanding player honors, each polling 34 points from sports writers and broadcasters.

Johnny and Eddie were named to the all-tourney first team and Glowaski was placed on the second.

Final Cup Singles Divided

ADELAIDE, Australia (AP) — Australia completed its rout of America's Davis Cup team today by splitting the final two singles matches and making the final score, 4-1.

Vic Seixas of Philadelphia salvaged the only victory for the U.S., beating Ken McGregor, 6-3, 8-6, 6-8, 6-3, after Frank Sedgman had whipped Tony Trabert of Cincinnati, 7-5, 6-4, 10-8.

In gaining the lone U.S. victory Seixas never let up in his attack. His keenly placed passing shots always had McGregor worried at the net. McGregor got to some of these but when he did he continually made errors.

Altogether McGregor had 42 clean winners to Seixas' 37, but the Australian had 106 errors to Seixas' 93. Each had 5 aces. McGregor had 6 double faults and Seixas 3.

TWENTY YEARS AGO — Warren (Tex) Tilton was named head football coach at Washington and Lee.

Pels Change Mat Date

Klamath Union High School's first wrestling meet — against Grants Pass — has been switched to Tuesday, Pelican Coach Dutch Simons announced yesterday.

Time is 3 p.m. on Pelican Court. The mat opener for the Pels was originally scheduled for Friday.

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Herald and News

SPORTS

RED HURD, SPORTS EDITOR

CAGE SCORES

COLLEGE BASKETBALL
BIG SEVEN TOURNAMENT

Kansas State 93, Kansas 87 (Championship)

Missouri 57, Yale 56 (For third place)

Colorado 67, Nebraska 53 (for fifth place)

Iowa State 70, Oklahoma 76 (for seventh place)

HOLIDAY FESTIVAL

Utah State 39, Manhattan 57 (Championship)

DePaul 81, Miami (Ohio) 78 (for third place)

LASALLE 80, NYU 63 (Consolation final)

DIXIE CLASSIC

N. C. State 76, Holy Cross 74 (Semi-final)

Briarham Young 84, Wake Forest 58 (semi-final)

Penn. St. Duke 80 (Consolation)

North Carolina 72, Princeton 59 (Consolation semi-final)

SUGAR BOWL TOURNEY

Louisiana State 76, St. Louis 67 (Championship)

Villanova 73, St. Bonaventure 66 (Consolation)

ALL-COLLEGE TOURNEY

Oklahoma A&M 75, Oklahoma City 58 (Semi-final)

Idaho 66, Wyoming 53 (Semi-final)

Western Kentucky 79, Tulsa 70 (Consolation)

Penn State 67, Bowling Green 56 (Consolation)

BOSTON INVITATION

Georgetown 70, St. 77, Rhode Island 72 (Championship)

Seattle 99, Boston College 66 (Consolation)

Other Games

Minnesota 64, Michigan State 47

Illinois 64, St. Marys (Calif.) 65

Wanderbilt 77, Tennessee 69

Morningside 82, Idaho State 80

Whitworth 80, Lewis & Clark 62

McMoyne (N.Y.) 79, Los Angeles Loyola 74

Padena Nazarene 79, New Mexico Western 65

Portland (Ore.) Univ. 93, Central Wash. 75

Linfield 91, Clark JC 82 (Overtime)

Eastern Oregon 119, Id. 101

Southern Oregon 72, Portland State 71 (Overtime)

Prep Basketball Scores

Vancouver, Wash., 60 McMinnville 53

Beaverton 47 Beaverton 44

Clatskanie 60 West 30

Powers 59 Gold Beach 33

Tulede 62 Central Union 32

Perrydale 63 Halsey 47

Tigard 67 Oswego 48

West Linn 65 Milwaukie 63

Anity 40 Gaston 37

Clats 48 Sweet Home 46

Weston 52 Boardman 29

Sheridan 52 Jefferson 59

North Marion 50 Canby 42

Molla 46 Washington (Portland) 39

Franklin (Portland) 53 Newberg 35

Knappton 63 Vernonia 52

Linfield Freshmen 72 Wheeler 35

Shed 47 Alsea 27

Utah State Captures Holiday Hoop Crown

By The Associated Press

Utah State captured the holiday basketball crown by defeating Manhattan 57-39 in the championship game of the Holiday Hoop Festival at New York's Madison Square Garden, game through with the title Tuesday night.

Utah State, the dark horse of eight teams entered in the Holiday Festival at New York's Madison Square Garden, game through with the title Tuesday night.

And at Raleigh, N. C., Brigham Young shot into the finals of the Dixie Classic along with North Carolina State, the defending champion.

WINNERS

The other tournaments produced the following winners:

Southwest Conference — Southern Methodist.

Sugar Bowl — Louisiana State.

Big Seven — Kansas State.

Mountain Invitational — Georgetown.

Meanwhile play in the All-College tourney at Oklahoma City also reached the final stage, where the favored Oklahoma Aggies will oppose unseeded Idaho Wednesday night.

A long one-handed shot in the final second of play by little Bob Harbertson gave Utah State a 59-37 victory over previously unbeaten Manhattan. Before they staged their nip-and-tuck affair, DePaul took the consolation while the Miami of Ohio 81-78 and Lasalle, third ranked nationally, romped over New York University 80-63 for consolation round honors.

Dick Knostning was the scoring star of Kansas State's 92-87 triumph over Kansas. The ace of the nation's No. 1 team tossed in 38 points. Missouri downed Yale 57-53 for third place.

Bob Pettit was chiefly responsible for the ending of St. Louis' two-year reign as Sugar Bowl champs as LSU won 70-67. Pettit contributed 28 points. Villanova won the consolation title, defeating St. Bonaventure 75-66.

Georgetown took the Boston tournament by whipping Rhode Island State's Rams 77-72 after Seattle's Johnny O'Brien racked up 41 points in the West Coast team's 99-86 triumph over Boston College in the consolation final. Johnny's performance boosted his new collegiate four-year scoring record to 2,687 points.

Oklahoma's Aggies, gunning for their 10th tournament title, eliminated defending champion Oklahoma City University 75-58 and Idaho in the semi-final bracket at Oklahoma City.

SPORTS in BRIEF

Malin Wins On Rally

Malin stayed a squeak ahead of Merrill for three quarters last night, then broke loose in the fourth frame for a 4-3 victory in a non-league game on the winner's court.

Jack Hendrickson kept the Huskies in contention for three chapters with 14 points. But, with a skimpy 32-30 led going into the last quarter, the Mustangs stopped Hendrickson and started to hit themselves. Malin potted 8 points in the last period, Merrill just three.

Gary Mauney led Malin with 15 points. The teams were tied 8-8 at the end of one quarter. Malin took the lead early in the second and kept it the rest of the way, but held a close 19-17 advantage at intermission time.

Malin won the junior varsity preliminary, 59-30.

Box Score:

MERRILL (32)	14	F	15
Hendrickson	14	F	3
Winters	11	C	4
Barry	1	G	11
Walters	1	G	11

Malin subs: Steyfski, Thrush, Lyon & L. Travis, McAlister 1.

SOC Splits With Vikes

PORTLAND (AP) — Southern Oregon gained a split in a two-game series here with Portland State by losing in an overtime victory Tuesday night, 72-71.

Ken Kimura, who almost was the goat of the game, became the hero instead by sinking three successive free throws near the end of the overtime period. That brought Southern Oregon from a 71-69 deficit to its margin of victory.

With the score tied 67-67 at the end of regular playing time, Kimura had missed two free throws.

Dick Green, Portland State guard, duplicated Kimura's championship experience, Green was fouled at the end of overtime, but missed the two free throws that could have won for his team.

Head Injury

He suffered a head injury when thrown from his mount at Lincoln Downs on Nov. 14 and missed six days of racing.

He rode four winners at Tropical Monday and shattered the record with his 389th in the ninth and final race on King's Quest.

Ironically, Marshall Cassidy, assistant secretary of the jockey club, and DeSpirito Park steward, presented DeSpirito with a silver plate in the winner's circle, Cassidy was one of the stewards who had suspended him earlier in the month.

Miller is in a New York sanitarium but Culmone and Shoemaker were quick to extend congratulations and both praised Despirito.

"I'm glad he did it," they both declared. Culmone, competing against him at Tropical Park, said he is "a good rider."

HOCKEY

By The Associated Press

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