

# — Reviewing Local Sports Happenings In 1958 —

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Herald and News Sports Writer

We've had a good year locally, one filled with many exciting and interesting sports attractions that won fame and fortune for some, sorrow and defeat for others. But all in all, we can't complain.

What was the top local sports story in 1958? That's a tough question to answer. We had many "Top" stories.

Such nominations as the Pelicans state A-1 basketball championship; Merrill's winning the state B football title; Oregon Tech's domination of the Oregon Collegiate Conference as the Owls won the basketball, track and football titles (the latter was forfeited by the school because of ineligible players) or many, many others.

While we had several very outstanding team efforts that stood out, there was no shortage of individual stardom. The Klamath Basin had more than its share of standout individuals in the world of sports in 1958.

What about big Glenn Moore, the leader in the KUHS state basketball championship? What about Oregon Tech's little All-American guard Allen Jones and all-Coast end Norm Hooper? What about Vern Allen, the Tulelake teacher and coach, who rolled a 747 series to set a new Lucky Lanes bowling record and possibly an all-time city alley mark? What about Dr. Jim Noel who won the Reames Golf and Country Club championship? And you can't leave out Moore, Dave Robinson and Bob Peterson who were named to the all-state A-1 Basketball team at the close of the tournament. Or Denny Knowles who copped the state class B trapshooting title.

Besides team and individual efforts, we were in on several "firsts" for the Basin. Klamath Falls played host to the regional Babe Ruth League finals. Klamath had its first season of official Little League baseball play. Local sports car enthusiasts formed a club. Also a first was the initial archery hunting season when local bow and arrow followers set out to bag deer in August and September in the Keno area.

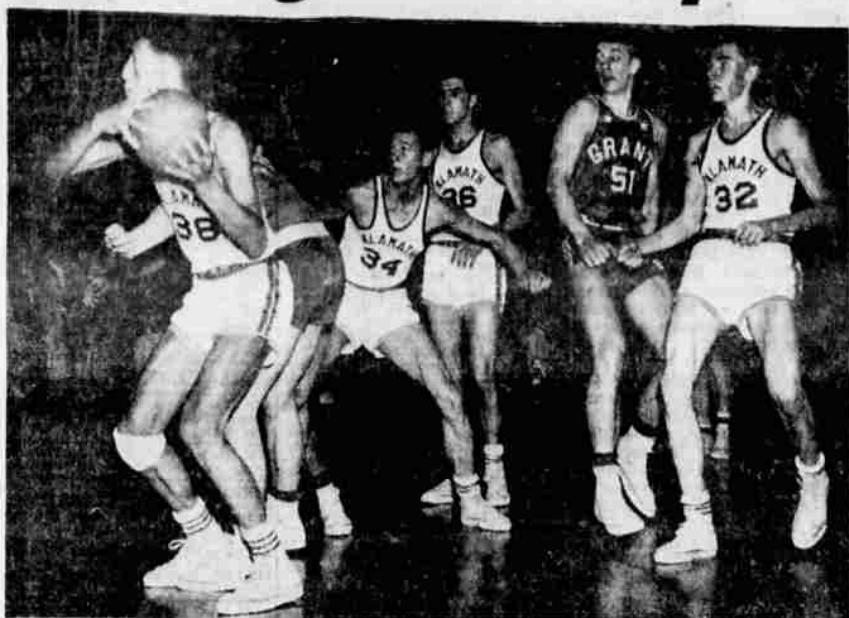
Let's review 1958 season by season, sport by sport.

## Archery

The big event for Klamath area archers was the first bow and arrow deer hunting season in August and September. Local bowmen took part in the usual number of state and invitational shoots held this past year, holding up the honors for their respective clubs.

## Baseball

Summer baseball was headed up by the Klamath Cubs' title drive in Northern California League baseball play. This was also the first year for Little League baseball, as six teams of local youngsters took part in the national program for 10, 11 and 12 year olds. John-Manville won the KF Little League championship in the first season's play. Klamath was the host to the northwest regional Babe Ruth League tournament, which was won by Washington's entry from South King County. Local Babe Ruth officers have also offered a bid for the state championships to be held here this coming summer. Merrill advanced to the state B semifinals before losing out. Oregon Tech's Charlie Garter was named to the Oregon Collegiate Conference all-star team at shortstop. Ron Owens, ex-KUHS and Southern Oregon College baseball star, signed a bonus contract with the Pittsburgh Pirates, but was released after a shoulder injury while playing for Las Vegas. Hi Hatfield did a fine job in managing the Klamath Falls American Legion Junior baseball team to the league championship and into the district finals and state quarterfinals before bowing to North Bend, two games to one. It was the first legion title here in several seasons. Donn Taucher, KF Cub centerfielder,



**PELICAN BASKETBALL** — Klamath Union High School defeated Grant High of Portland for the state A-1 basketball championship last March in Eugene. Above Glenn Moore snares rebound in title game.

was named the outstanding player in the Northern California League all-star game at Dunsuir after he sparked the south to victory over the northern stars. Merrill's town team won the Klamath Basin Independent League crown. The Portland Beavers and Vancouver Mounties of the Pacific Coast League played an exhibition game here early in the spring, with the Mounties winning. The Beavers' starting pitcher was Niles Jordan, ex-Klamath Falls Gem hurler in the days of the Far West League.

## Basketball

Klamath Union High and Oregon Tech both produced some fine basketball in 1958. The Pelicans won 25 of 26 games and the state championship by beating Grant High of Portland. The Owls won their second straight Oregon Collegiate Conference basketball title, plus posting a 29-6 season record. Merrill High won the county tournament title, but lost in the district playoff to Talent. Oregon Food Store



**BUTCH KIMPTON**  
... playing for Webfoots

led the City League standings and captured the district AAU honors before losing out in the area finals. Klamath had three on the all-state team in Glenn Moore, Dave Robinson and Bob Peterson after winning the A-1 title. Moore also set a new all-time KUHS basketball 1000-point mark in three years of competition. The same three Pelicans—Moore, Robinson and Peterson—along with Bob Niles were named to the all-Southern Oregon Conference team for their play. OTI players on the all-OCC team were John McCutcheon, Truman Williams and Charlie Bogle. Butch Kimpton, a 1957 graduate of KUHS, sparked the University of Oregon frosh basketball team last winter.



**LITTLE LEAGUERS** — Klamath Falls enjoyed its first official Little League baseball season in 1958. Above are members of Bob's Union team, one of six, to take part in the local program for boys 10, 11 and 12 years of age.

and now as a sophomore is bidding high for a starting job on the Webfoot varsity. He is classed by Oregon basketball leaders as one of the top guard and playmaking prospects to come out of the state in many years. Larry Pretty Weasel scored 32 points in one game to lead Lodge Grass (Montana) to the championship of the annual all-Indian invitational basketball tournament at Chilquin. The tournament, the biggest in the history of the meet was again sponsored by the Reservation Jaycees.

## Bowling

A 10-lane addition to Lucky Lanes Bowling Alley was the big news for local bowlers. All new automatic pinsetters help to take care of the huge demand made on the South Sixth Street bowling establishment. Vern Allen's 747 headed the list of individual efforts on the KF lanes. Three other 700s were rolled — Frank Beard's 709, Cliff Stenler with a 706 and Roy Harris with a 704. Stenler teamed with Bob Victorin to win the men's state class A doubles championship at the state tournament. La-Rayne Harris continued to pace the women bowlers by winning another city all-events scratch championship. Lucky Lanes was busy with exhibition schedules as nationally-known greas stopped here for public shows. The three "names" who were here included Dick Hoover, Buddy Bomar and Bill Lillard.

## Boxing

The armory was quiet as far as professional boxing was concerned this past year. In Lakeview the interest in amateur and PAL boxing clubs for boys was high. Frankie Lightle of Lakeview won the 147-pound state AAU novice boxing championship.

## Cross Country

For the second straight year, Oregon Tech sponsored a cross country team. Although the team against SOC—and was on a limited schedule, Coach George Miller had some fine track prospects. Heading the list was Roger Moreland and George Pappen, the latter the Owls top distance runner in track.

## Dogs

Again the two retriever field trials sponsored by the Shasta-Cascade Retriever Club were successful. Over 100 entries took part in both the spring and fall meetings. Clover, a Lab, and Joaquin Nugget, a Golden, were the winners of the Open All-Age stakes at the two S-C trials. Hal Shidier qualified and entered his fine Labrador, Hal's Spi-Wize-Zeke in the national amateur championships held near San Francisco. Zeke finished all nine of the series and placed high in the final standings. Pat Montgomery and Bob Trotman worked on the trial grounds crew while Jim Stilwell, another local retriever leader, was one of the three judges.

## Fishing

We had a good fishing season. As usual, many anglers hooked some lunkers from the waters of Williamson River, Agency Lake and Upper Klamath Lake. Diamond Lake was very good early in the year, with fly-fishermen getting several weeks of good fishing late in the season. Lake of the Woods—despite a scare that the trout in the lake were dying because of a tapeworm—was very good for pan-sized fish and was heavily stocked for future fishing seasons. Klamath River was better early in the spring than it has been for years.

## Football

The top football news here was Oregon Tech's great 6-2 season which included a 4-0 Oregon Collegiate Conference season record. But the Owls bubble burst when

the school found it had four ineligible players, and forfeited the title. The Owls lost only to Hamilton Air Force Base and Whittier College, while grabbing such big wins as 66-7 over Oregon College and 40-0 over Southern Oregon—before forfeiting 1-0 after the announcement of ineligible players. Although KUHS had a poor season in the won-lost column, end Gary Kranenburg was named to the Oregonian's all-state honorable mention list. Merrill rolled up its first state class B football championship and an undefeated team under the coaching of Al Keck. Keck's teams in the last three years have advanced to the quarterfinals, semifinals and now the championship. Merrill clubbed Yoncalla 60-7 in the championship game for the biggest score on record for any state high school championship game, regardless of classification. Jack Himmelwright, ex-KU footballer, played his third year of varsity football for the University of Colorado and was named to the all-Big Eight Conference first team



**ALLEN JONES**  
... little A-A mention

as a tackle, as well as making UPI's all-America honorable mention list. Jack also played in the Copper Bowl game as a member of the Southwest team. Al Siegner, another ex-Pelican, played his second year of football at Monterey Peninsula (JC) College and was picked to the West team which played in the East-West All-America Junior College bowl game. Five Klamath County B high school foot-



**OCC CHAMPIONS** — Oregon Tech won its second straight Oregon Collegiate Conference basketball title in 1958. Above, all-conference star John McCutcheon puts up a shot in a game against Oregon College.

ballers from 1957 played in the annual East-West B Shrine game in Pendleton last August. The five were Perry Laney, Merrill; Dick Steyskal, Malin; Steve Pope, Chilquin; J. D. McMurtry, Merrill and Jasper Strunck, Bonanza. Oregon Tech has six boys on all-star and all-America teams at the close of its fine season. Allen Jones, the four year letterman guard and captain, was named to the Associated Press' Little All-American honorable mention list. End Dale McCulloch was on Williamson's Rating System little A-A honorable mention list. Jones and end Norm Hooper were picked to the second team all-Little Pacific Coast team selected by UPI. Hooper was a first team selection and Jones a second team choice for all-Little Northwest honors. Backs Earl Green and Charlie Garter and tackle Arnold Metcalf were picked as honorable mention on the all-Little Northwest team. Charlie Wilson, Ardell Hamilton, Frank Wilson and Roy Johnson were all-OCC football choices this fall along with Jones, Hooper, Garter, Green and Dick Hill.

## General

Len Surlax and Don Megale resigned from positions at Klamath Union High School and the athletic department. Joe Peak quit the post as physical education and health director of the city grade schools. Surlax, for nine years a



**JOE PEAK**  
... leaves Klamath post

member of the KU staff, left his track job here and moved to Orange, California where he is a junior high athletic director and city recreation officer. Megale, after guiding the Pels to the state basketball title, quit to take a post in the Oregon State College PE department. Peak, after a very long tenure with local schools, dropped out of the teaching business and moved his family to the coast.

## Golf

Dr. Jim Noel won the club championship at Reames. Clark Good, Reames pro, set a new course record by posting a 68 for 18 holes. A pair of hole-in-ones were recorded this season—once by Bill Hagelstein Sr., and the other by Max Marvin—both came on the short seventh hole. Bob Harrahill defeated Wes McNeely for the President's Cup title. In the all-Basin Tournament, Carl Woods won the low gross honors and Pelican football coach Andy Knudsen led the low net field. High school golf was also started for KUHS students as a part of the high school athletic program, under the direction of Bob Johnson and Good.



**TENNIS VICTOR** — Portland's Bill Rose, left, receives the men's singles trophy for the third straight time after winning the Herald and News Labor Day Tennis Tournament at Moore Park. Presenting the award is Earl Brooks, tournament chairman.

## Hardtops

Again this summer, the Klamath Falls Racing Assn. headed a hard-top racing season. Bud Cook, a veteran driver, ran off with the individual point championship. The KRA also started a junior racing group for boys, and the youth group took part in the weekly racing sessions.

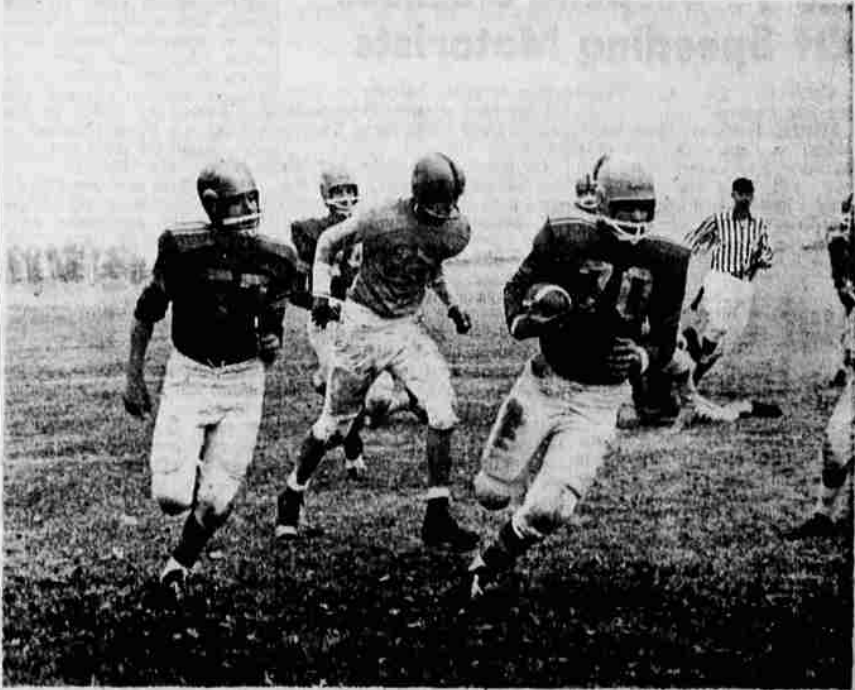
## Horseshoes

For the first time, the city recreation department scheduled an

all-city horseshoe tournament. The winner was Johnny Henderson.

## Hunting

Due to hot and dry weather conditions, our 1958 deer hunting season was poor. Several fine trophy bucks were bagged by hunters, but for the most part, the big deer and highly-sought after bucks were hard to find because of the dry forests. Pheasant hunters had a good season, with plenty of birds. Duck and goose shooting was good early in the season, but here again weather didn't help the hunters.



**ROLLING TO STATE B TITLE** — Merrill High School won its first state Class B football championship this year under coach Al Keck. Above in semifinal clash, John Haskins sets off on scoring run.

## Trapshooting

Denny Knowles won Class B honors in the state trapshoot meet. Vern Moore traveled to Reno to enter in both the Golden West Grand and the Pacific Grand. In the Golden West, Moore fired a 100-100 and was high among the finishers.

## Wrestling

KUHS lost the district championship for the first time since competing in district competition. But DeLance Duncan's Pelicans went on to finish fourth in the state tournament held at Oregon State College. Pelican wrestler Lyle McFarland won the state championship in his weight. Henley High started a wrestling program in its athletic program, and competed on a limited schedule, but will be planning more mat action this year. Only one or two professional wrestling bouts were held at the armory. The midgets were here once and put on their usually fine show. Jay Dearing, university of Oregon wrestler via Klamath Falls, won the Pacific Coast Interscholastic wrestling title in his weight division.

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## Skiing

The big news in this winter sport was the official opening of the Mt. Shasta Ski Bowl. Local skiers will be giving the Northern California winter wonderland lots of business as soon as the winter snow season is settled. Tomahawk Ski Bowl on the Lake of the Woods road also drew more Basin ski fans this past year. Jean and Joan Saubert of Lakeview won several ski titles in meets all over the country.

The late season hunting conditions included cold, but clear weather with freezing ice chasing lots of birds out of the country and into California to the south. Several gunners dropped big bear on outings this fall. Local elk hunters, also had their share of success, although the overall state outlook for elk hunters was poor.

## Softball

The city recreation department had another banner year for their young boys' summer softball program for Bantam and PeeWee age boys. Market Basket's city league winners advanced to the state tournament and lost out to Salem in a 1-0 extra inning ballgame that was broken up by a long home run. The Klamath Basinettes were reformed and entered the state women's softball tournament at Medford. The local girls team placed high in the state playoffs, and also had several exhibition games both at home and on the road.

## Sports Cars

Local sports car patrons formed a club of their own, for "little car people." The name of the club is Sport and Import Car Club. The group held several travel-log trips and timing races.

## Tennis

Klamath Union High tied for the state boys tennis championship. The doubles team of Pelicans Julius Reynolds and John Bousquet won the state twosome championship. Jimmy Jackson won the Lions Club City Tennis Tournament championship. Bill Rose — for the third straight year—won the annual Herald and News Labor Day Invitational Tournament.

## Track

Merrill placed fifth in the state B high school meet. Gordon Sellars was the lone KUHS representative in the A-1 meet and finished fifth in the broadjump. The city recreation department, in conjunction with the local school system, held a summer track and field program which drew a large number of boys into recreational activity.

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