



Saturday morning there was an urgent call for all state newspaper sports types to climb out on a limb... and just wait for someone to hand them the saw.

We were asked to predict the outcome of the tournaments, both at Eugene and at Coos Bay. You know, the "Experts Say" sort of thing. I played hard to get... I was suddenly taken busy and had to pass up the chance.

It's not too hard to figure out that I just might have a favorite in each tournament... and why should I go around putting the "Death Kiss" on their chances?

Then too, I took a closer look at the teams entered... just trying to figure out who the easy ones might be... and the way you know... all of a quick I realized that there are no "easy" ones.

And to make it worse, I talked to guys like Gene Strehlou whose "little" St. Helens Lions meet the Pelicans at Eugene Tuesday night in the tourney opener... and he told me they didn't have a chance against the Whitebirds... that the Pels should just look right past him and his Lions to their second game. Oh, heck yes.

Then I talked to the Bend Bulletin's Bill Thompson who watched the Madras White Buffalo come within eight points of trampling the Bend Lava Bears just the other day. Bend, if you'll recall, was not exactly a patsy for the Pels and they are in the A-1 tournament just as big as life.

And the Buffaloes... oh, yes... they drew the Henley Hornets in the first game at Marshfield... and I suspect this just might make for a rough tournament baptism for the A-2 pride of Klamath County... This is the Hornets' first trip you know.

Nope, when tournament time rolls around there is no clench... they're all tough... and the coach or club that forgets to play them just one at a time is suddenly busy in the consolation bracket and best you can do in this situation is fifth.

Neither the Pelicans nor the Hornets ever had a more sincere backer but I'll be darned if I'll put them on the spot. The best I can do is wish them the best of everything... tournament luck, shooting and defenses.

These are what is needed to produce a tournament championship. Incidentally, Henley fans will be glad to know that Ted Blotky, a former Hornet himself... will cover for the H&N at Coos Bay... he'll come up with a fine account of all Henley games. He is a member of the Capitol Journal (Salem) sports staff... and does a great job. Yep, he's got a pair of brothers, Chuck and Larry, on the Hornet squad.

Me, I'll be at Eugene... while Floyd Wynne, John Nolen and Guy Farmer team up on the desk and the All-Indian tourney in my absence. The guy to thank, the next time you're in Grants Pass, for the Southern Oregon Conference weekly scoring and statistics... is the Courier's Jerry Acklen. Jerry just has to have about eight hands and at least three typewriters... Unless I've got my dope crossed up, he's also City Editor for the Courier in addition to his sports interests.

A couple of years ago I came to the conclusion that all-star teams were a dime a dozen and put an end to the H&N all-star picks for both the Southern Oregon and Oregon Collegiate Conferences. I decided to accept the Med-

Strikes 'n Spares

And An Occasional Blow... by WAYNE SCOTT

Charge it up to basketball and the frantic preparations for a week at Eugene... at any rate I goofed on Strikes and Spares this week, at least insofar as the Holiday is concerned. (Hope all the Holiday bowlers don't live in Henley.)

Our source at the new lanes, Ralph Barnett, called with his usual report and we told him we were going to skip the column this week... and then about four hours later decided we could squeeze it in, after all.

So... Lucky Lanes gets all the play this week... but that's just the way it happened.

Lucky "stats-man" Earl Brooks has been fanning the record books and comes up with the knowledge that Les Bieher is still the high average bowler at his house. Bieher's 196 mark tops Al Hakenwerth and Mel Robinson, each with a 194. Frank Beard with a 193, Chuck Reynolds and Bill Hawley, who both claim a 192, Gino Rosterella with a 191, and Jerry Cole and Bob Victorin, both of whom have been 190's.

Vita Carson's 183 is crowded by Clara Beards' 181, LaRayne Harris' 180, Eldina Greenwood's 178 and Audrey Herrick's 176.

Two spares followed by ten straight strikes was worth a neat 277 game for Merle Smith in the Lucky Major Classic league Wednesday... and I'm curious... just what does it take to make the Lucky Lanes Honor Roll?

Anyway the list of Honor Rollers this week includes Mel Rob-

Lowell 'B' Champ-In Final 5 Seconds

BEND (AP) — Lowell defeated lone, 52-49, for the Oregon class B high school basketball championship here Saturday night.

A three-point play by Larry Dixon with five seconds left gave the tall Lowell team victory in the bitterly fought tournament finale.

Dixon hit a 20-foot field goal from the side, was fouled on the shot and converted the free throw. Lone, which was paced by a 27-point effort from John Swanson, was behind, 42-36, early in the fourth period. But with a full court press, it made several steals and finally tied it with 25 seconds left.

Then Lowell took the ball, played for one shot and made it good.

Al McDaniels of Lowell, who made the all-state team along with lone's Swanson and Francis Rea, was second high scorer with 26 points.

In the night's opener, Portland Christian took third place in the tournament with a 60-52 win over Powers. Barry Birch, with 16 points, and Gary Brownlee, with 13, led the Christians. Rich Calbo of Powers was high point man with 17.

The attendance of 2,100 at night and 700 in the afternoon increased the tournament attendance to an estimated 6,600 for the three days and nights. Sponsors said it was a financial success.

Wheeler's big Jim Slinkard bucketed a pair of free tosses in the opening moments of the final stanza to break a 46-46 deadlock between the Prospect five and the ultimate fourth - place winners.

From here on, despite desperate surges, the Cougars could never get closer than from two to five points.

Game high-scorer Bob Potter, like Slinkard big and strong off the boards, canned a jumper that gave the winners the determining edge. Potter, hitting on 10 of 19 tries from the field netted 22 points for the game.

Slinkard was second for the winners with 12 points as he matched Potter in rebounds at 11.

Thirteen proved an unlucky number for the Cougars. Craig Gardner, who did his best to ignore an ankle sprained Friday, notched 13 points as did Bob Fitch and brother Terry. But it was the Prospect ineptness at the foul line that spelled the difference.

The Cougars hit only six of 15 foul shots while the winners collected a torrid 12 of 16. Prospect had the edge in field goals, notching 23 of 60 tries while the winners connected on 22 of 52.

Wheeler got off to a 12-9 first quarter bulge and ran the count to 18-9 before the Cougars got in gear during the second go-round and finally closed out the half on the short end of a 31-28 score.

The Cougars managed a one-point, 37-36, lead in the third but couldn't stand the pace, and finally had to accept the 46-41 third frame end and from here they were in the shadows.

The boxscore:

Scoring Summary				
Wheeler (54)	Reb	Pt	Reb	Pt
Potter	10	22	11	12
Slinkard	11	12	11	12
Gardner	13	13	11	11
Fitch	13	13	11	11
Brooks	11	11	11	11
Rea	11	11	11	11
Calbo	11	11	11	11
Birch	11	11	11	11
Brownlee	11	11	11	11
Dixon	11	11	11	11
McDaniels	11	11	11	11
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