

# GETS \$100,000 FOR ARM Prodan Players Refuse To Play

## Pettit Contract Breaks Record

With \$95,450 already in his pockets, Paul "Lefty" Pettit, Narbonne High's fabulous Golden Boy, today turned his sights toward making the grade in big time baseball.

The whip-armed Lomita southpaw, officially the highest bonused rookie in major league history, reports to the Pittsburgh Pirates' school at San Bernardino February 13 and then will join the New Orleans Pelicans on March 1.

He shows up for the Pirates, who laid the whopping sum on the line Tuesday, in 1951.

Pettit, who was under contract for his athletic and acting ability to Frederick Stephani, a Hollywood producer, pocketed a neat \$100,000 in extra cash today—the difference between the \$85,450 that Stephani paid for him and the \$95,450 Pirate contract.

Stephani retained the movie rights on Pettit, who will receive, in addition to the above, \$5000 per picture and 10 per cent of the profits.

Out of the \$95,000 figure will come Pettit's salary of \$6000 per year for the next three.

After the historic signing Tuesday afternoon in the company of his father, Stephani, Roy Hamey, Pirate general manager, and Boris Wooley, attorney for Pettit, the 18-year-old Harbor Hills youth calmly walked his girl friend, Shirley Jennings, to a show.

Nonchalant about his ever-increasing riches, Pettit said: "I can't touch the money until I'm 21."

Nearly a week of spirited bidding for Paul's services reportedly followed his graduation from Narbonne High School last Thursday.

Culmination of it all came Tuesday afternoon when it was announced that an agreement had been reached between Pettit, Stephani, and Hamey whereby the 6 ft. 2 inch lefthander would receive in the neighborhood of \$100,000 for his services. It was later learned that his contract calls for a figure of \$95,450.

Local citizens were irritated to read in wire dispatches and hear over the radio that Pettit, a tried and true Narbonne athlete, hails from a place called Long Beach. In fact, a couple of proud residents phoned the radio station to complain.

Pettit's contract exceeds by more than \$25,000 the previous record bonus figure of \$75,000 paid to Catcher Buddy House by the Detroit Tigers two years ago.

Hints of possible repercussions in the unique nature of Pettit's pact with Stephani were stilled somewhat in an announcement by Dick Butler, A. B. Chandler's representative. "The contract apparently violates no rule in baseball," Butler said before the deal was closed.

Under the watchful eye of Major league scouts, the sensational southpaw, who now scales 205 pounds, pitched six no hits and won 73 games, while losing 13, in his last three years.

Impressing the scouts was Paul's sensational speed which over-shadowed a fast-breaking curve and a tricky change of pace.

Then, a couple of months ago the scouts were thrown a curve themselves when Stephani stepped in and signed Paul to the acting athletic contract.

That pact called for a bonus of \$50,000; \$10,000 more for signing; a three-year salary of \$6000; \$5200 for his father; \$1500 for his attorney; 10 per cent of the screen profits; and \$750 for a honeymoon trip to Hawaii, when and if he marries.

When he sold the athletic part of the agreement Tuesday, Stephani apparently got the nod except Paul's acting services for 10 years. And the producer says he does not intend to use Paul in a picture unless the boy cuts a wide swath for himself in the majors.

The Pirate general manager said after the signing: "We are happy to land the boy. Our scouts have watched him closely for a long time, rate him very highly, and believe he has a chance to become an outstanding pitcher in the majors."

At Narbonne, his coach there, Wayne Sloss, also said he believed that Pettit would make the grade in the big time. Sloss brought Pettit, who learned to pitch on the Harbor Hills



PITCHIN' PAUL... Here's a batter's eye view of the \$100,000 left arm of Narbonne High's fabulous Paul Pettit. —Herald photo.

sand lots, up to the Narbonne varsity in 1947, where he helped lead the Gauchos to three straight championships.

During that time he pitched two no-hit games for Narbonne but lost one of them at Dorsey in the city championships.

Paul racked up four more no-hitters as a member of the American Legion Junior nine before he was 16 years of age.

During his high school career, Pettit pitched in 41 games, won 28 and lost eight. He had a won 29 and lost 2 record in semi-pro ball, and a 6-3 Legion record.

One of the most amazing feats in his strikeout record—945 in 578 innings pitched or nearly two men per inning.

Big Paul played basketball in his sophomore year and proved his versatility by making All-Marine League at a forward spot. He gave up basketball the following season to devote full time to his diamond career, but reappraised this season again Rii—and racked up 14 points.

His folks took Tuesday's signing with some nonchalance. His father, a night watchman at Terminal Island, is reportedly considering retiring. His mother gasped out: "Oh, isn't it wonderful!"

Paul was definitely the toast of the town yesterday as congratulations poured in from all sides toward the athlete who stands out above all the rest in a community which is rapidly becoming famous for top stars in all fields of sport.

## Curley Tops 'Blue' Scoring With 20 Point For Docs

Harbor Does led the Blue Wednesday division of the City Basketball League by one game this week with a 19-15 win over Greater Torrance Market while Columbia Steel edged back into a tie with Lovelady Hardware for second place from third after winning 14-38 over Redondo Sea Foods.

Herb Curley was high man of the evening—and the season—in the blue division, adding 20 points to Columbia's 44 score. Do Merrill led the losing Sea Food five with 11 points.

Doyal Crowshaw paced Watteria-B.M.A. to victory over Lovelady Hardware with eight points to make the final score 31-28. Dick Gresham and Frank Perkins each had 10 points for the losers.

Allen Hofferber kept his high-scoring position with the Harbor Docs, adding 8 points to their 19-15 victory over Greater Torrance Market. Jim Van Valer was best man for the losers with seven points.

SUMMARIES:		Torr. Mkt., 15	
Harbor Docs, 19	F	Marshall, 15	
Mans, 4	F	Burchfield, 5	
Boddy, 6	F	Starr, 11	
Bovman, 5	C	Van Valer, 7	
Salinas, 2	G	Martin, 1	
Hofferber, 8	G	Dorsey, 1	
Halftime score: Harbor Docs 13; Torrance Market 11.			
Columbia, 44	F	Redondo, 38	
Curley, 20	F	Heston, 9	
Do Merrill, 11	F	Wolford, 8	
Theodosis, 5	G	Starr, 11	
Bat, 2	G	Kemp, 6	
Scoring sub: Harbor Docs 13; Torrance Market 11.			
Columbia, 44	F	Redondo, 38	
Curley, 20	F	Heston, 9	
Do Merrill, 11	F	Wolford, 8	
Theodosis, 5	G	Starr, 11	
Bat, 2	G	Kemp, 6	
Scoring sub: Columbia—Anderson 2; Redondo 13.			
Watteria, 31	F	Lovelady, 28	
Kirkoff, 4	F	Ferrill, 4	
Hanson, 5	F	Campbell, 1	
Crowshaw, 6	C	Perkins, 10	
Ward, 6	G	Bennett, 1	
D. Crowshaw, 8	G	Adeock, 2	
Scoring sub: Watteria—Barrett 2; Lovelady—Gresham 10.			
Lovelady, 28	F	Watteria, 31	
Curley, 20	F	Heston, 9	
Do Merrill, 11	F	Wolford, 8	
Theodosis, 5	G	Starr, 11	
Bat, 2	G	Kemp, 6	
Scoring sub: Lovelady—Gresham 10; Watteria 31.			

TAKE 720 DEER IN COUNTY Seven hundred and twenty deer were killed in Los Angeles County in 1949.

## Will Ask City To Sponsor Boxing Here

Official sponsorship by the City Recreation Commission for the boxing instruction now being given at the High School gym will be asked of the commission at next Monday's meeting, Lyman G. Nolan said this week.

Nolan, director of the Tartar Teen Club sponsored by the recreation commission, and former boxing instructor of the Navy said he has been giving instruction at the gym during recent weeks on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays while the gym was open for basketball games, at the request of members of the Teen Club. Opening of the Teen Club on Friday nights from now on threatened to interfere with the scheduled instruction, and the students have asked him to request the commission for official sanction so they may use the gym on other nights.

## Coach Welch to Attend Track, Field Clinic

Coach Rex Welch, varsity track mentor of Torrance High School will be among the 150 high school, junior college, and college track and field coaches from various areas of Southern California attending the first annual Mt. San Antonio College Midwinter Track and Field Coaches clinic on February 6, according to Hilmer Lodge, Mt. San Antonio College track coach and chairman for the clinic.

## Varsity Goes Hog Wild In Second Half Spree

Scoring 29 points in the last half, and 16 of those in the final quarter, Coach Cliff Graybehl's Varsity Basketball team picked up their first league victory last Friday by downing Leuzinger, 45-25.

The contest played on the Olympian's court, was fairly even at the end of the first half with Leuzinger leading, 19-16. Ronnie Higgins, a Bee forward last year, came back in the second half and sank six out of seven shots to tally 12 points of his total 16 for the game. Bill Wernet at center for the Tartars and G. Johnson at forward for Leuzinger tied with 11 points each.

## Prodan Players Refuse To Play

It looked like five team play for the rest of the season in the "Black" Friday division of the City Basketball League at press time as Tony Prodan argued in vain to keep his team in the league.

Tony blamed temperament among his players for their refusal to go on the floor last Friday against Reed's after he voluntarily forfeited a game with Fenwick's in which his cagers had won the first round championship because his team had used illegal college players.

To date, he said, the players have refused to promise to continue the season and his only alternative is to drop out.

The Prodan five would have a serious handicap now if they do continue, as the Prodan-Reed was declared a forfeit and another game this round, with National Supply, was also declared a forfeit because they failed to meet the deadline for play. The team has won one game from the Torrance Merchants during the second round, which leaves them with the equivalent of one win and two losses.

The Merchants won a game for themselves last Friday, 48-27 against the Teachers with 11 George Tattel pounding in 16 points for the retailers. Bill Moore was top man for the teachers with 8 points.

Bob Smith and Lon Lee both tallied 12 points for Fenwick's in their 43-37 victory over National Supply. Dude Olson led National with 19 points.

Summaries:

Merchants, 48		Teachers, 27	
Boer, 1	F	Halle, 7	
D. Seting, 9	F	Baker, 2	
J. Seting, 8	F	Patte, 2	
Tuffel, 10	G	Stuart, 4	
Colman, 11	G	Conroy, 8	
Scoring sub: Teachers—Cole, 4.			
Halftime score: Merchants 27; Teachers 12.			
Fenwick, 43		National, 37	
Fisk, 11	F	Munsterman, 11	
Smith, 12	C	Kuhlmeyer, 5	
Turner, 6	C	Morris, 2	
Downey, 2	G	Bailey, 0	
Halftime score: Fenwick's 23; National 19.			

## Midgets To Meet On Carrell Oval

Roar of the mighty midgets will again resound at Carrell Speedway next Sunday, February 5, when the 3-A chauffeurs bring their Offenhauser mounts to the Gardena oval.

Promoter Bill White said the midgets would use the regular track, not the figure "8" course recently used by jalopies.

Such big name drivers as Duane Carter, Johnny Parsons, Danny Oakes, Perry Grimm, Johnny Toland and Peevee Distare are expected to make their 1950 debut at the Carrell raceway.

Dominick Distare has been named Starter for the mighty midget card, it was announced by White.

## Local Boy Honored at College

Robert Warner, son of Mr. and Mrs. Carl Warner of 1452 E. Prado, this week was honored by election to the presidency of Alpha Kappa Phi, national social fraternity.

A sophomore at College of the Pacific at Stockton, Warner lives on the campus at his fraternity house.

He arrived in Torrance last weekend to spend the week between semesters with his parents.

Pinch Poachers Fast Wardens of the California Division of Fish and Game make an average of one arrest every 50 minutes of the day and night for violations of the Fish and Game Code.

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