

Torrance High, El Camino Fives. Put Championship Hopes on Line

Warriors Encounter Revengeful 'Gades

Grimly hanging on to its hopes for the first Metropolitan Conference basketball championship in its history, El Camino College hosts title-aspiring Bakersfield tomorrow at 8 p.m.

Currently resting in third place with a 6-3 slate, one game behind the second-place Renegades, El Camino must come away with the victory tomorrow in order to maintain any chance for conference laurels.

Valley, which jumped off to a quick Metro lead, maintains a 7-1 record and runs into easy-pickings against Santa Monica, loser of 22 straight contests this season.

EL CAMINO began the conference chase in strong fashion, knocking over Harbor, Santa Monica and Bakersfield before hitting a disasterous slump which saw it fall before Valley, East Los Angeles, and San Diego, while whipping only Long Beach during that stretch.

On the other hand, Bakersfield, a pre-season pick to nab the Metro title, started off on the wrong foot, falling to San Diego and ECC. Since that time, however, the Renegades have come blasting back to stomp every foe in sight, handling loop-leading Valley its sole conference defeat of the season along the way.

HISTORY took place when the two outfits went at each other in the first round of action, as the Tribe took a 56-54 win away from the startled Gades. It was the first time since 1954 that a Warrior team had triumphed over Bakersfield on its home court.

Even then it took a dramatic, short jump shot by 6-4 center Keith Erickson with just seconds left, to hand EC the decision.

BIG SCORERS are noticeably absent from the Renegade lineup. Loren Thompson (12.6), Don Mills (10.5), and Robbie Knudson (10.2) comprise the bulk of the Bakersfield scoring thrust.

The Camino starting five abounds with big gunners though, with Dan Karavas (17.5) occupying the fifth spot among conference scoring leaders. Next in line for the Indians are Ron Dinnel (13.0), Mike Schrader (12.8), and Keith Erickson (12.3).

ON TUESDAY, Camino warmed up for the crucial tilt by bombarding Santa Monica, 81 to 65. The defeat marked the 22nd consecutive loss for the Vikings this season.

Ahead in all but the initial moments of the game, ECC was never pressed as the Vikings lagged at half 43-35 and trailed after intermission by as much as 24 points.

PAUL INGLEMAN came off the bench for the Warriors in the second half and wound up pacing the Tribe by dumping in 20 points with his deadly outside gunning.

ECC Names Two Coaches To Positions

Two newcomers will appear on the football coaching staff of El Camino College next fall, following action taken this week by the college Board of Trustees.

Named as assistants to Coach Ken Swearingen by the college board were Vince McCullough, head football coach at Redondo High School for the past several years, and Bill Vincent, an El Camino alumnus and football coach at Aviation High School.

McCullough will handle backfield coaching chores for the Warriors, while Vincent will specialize on the line. Rounding out the grid coaching crew is Don Jurk, who will tutor ends.

WITH the addition of Vincent, the ECC football staff boasts three returning alums—Jurk, Vincent, and Head Coach Swearingen, named in November to assume the post vacated with the death of Norm Verry.

Retiring from the grid sidelines is Doug Essick, who requested full-time duty in the instructional program of the physical education department. Essick, who took the reins as head coach immediately following Coach Verry's illness, led the team through a highly respectable season. The former USC grid great also served for many years as head-baseball coach.

IN ADDITION to his football duties, Vincent will assist Ray Southstone as track coach and both new coaches will instruct classes in health and physical education.

Selection of the two South Bayans followed a series of interviews with 25 applicants, John W. Morrow, assistant director of instruction, noted.

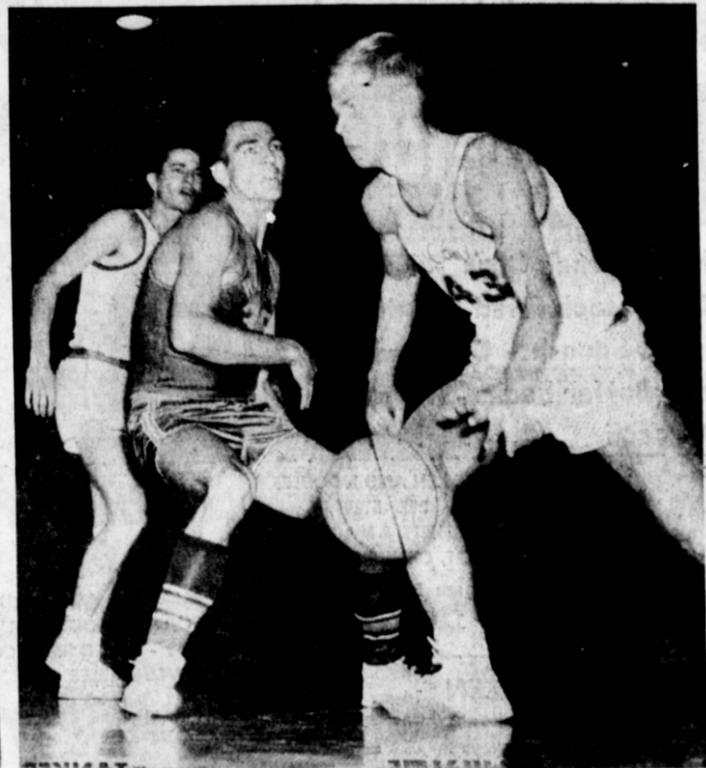
MCCULLOUGH, a 30-year-old graduate of Occidental College, lives in Torrance with his wife and four children. He will receive his master's degree from the University of Southern California in June. As a student at Occidental, he was considered an outstanding quarterback and track performer. His college education was interrupted by two years of service with the Army.

Vincent graduated from El Camino in 1950, completing his upper division work at San Diego State College, where he competed in football and wrestling. Following his graduation in 1953, he served in the Army until 1955.



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PATH TO VICTORY... El Camino forward Paul Ingleman begins to dribble ball past unidentified Harbor defender in the Warriors' 75-67 victory over the Seahawks on Friday. The Tribe runs into its most crucial Metropolitan Conference contest for the season tomorrow on its home court against Bakersfield at 8 p.m. (HERALD Photo by John Roberts)

Pace-Setting Vikings Take on Spartan Cagers

Cast in the role of basketball spoilers, South High attempts to dump loop-leading Santa Monica's Bay League apple-cart tomorrow at 8 p.m. on the Spartan hardwood.

Coming within one disputed point of pulling the rug out from under the tall Santa Monicans in their first-round battle-royal, the rapidly slipping Spartans will have to pull a new trick or two out of their hat to dump the once-stopped Vikings.

With only one Bay League defeat to its discredit, Santa Monica takes advantage of its tremendous height to shove its toes into submission.

ON MONDAY, Mira Costa, long considered even-money with Samohi to take the loop crown, discovered that height is might as far as basketball is concerned.

Although they started out like a ball of fire with Mitch Malpee and Rob Stidham gunning the Mustangs into a 28-25 lead at intermission, the Mico-hi five could not cope with the fantastic Santa Monica height after half as the Vikes rolled to a 67-52 decision.

ONLY ONE other team in the loop, Hawthorne, has any chance to overtake the sreaking Santa Monicans. South found out Monday why the Cougars have remained in the thick of the race while other challengers have faltered and fallen as the weeks rolled by.

Outscoring the Spartans in every quarter, Hawthorne took advantage of a pair of tall men to erase South's bid for an upset, 63-54. Sam Davis, 6-6; and Mike Graves, 6-4; took advantage of their height to plunk in 15 points apiece against South.

WHILE NO other Spartan could crack into double figures, always deadly Phil de la Porte played one of his better games of the year, slipping in 23 points to pace all scorers.

In an attempt to stave off the well-balanced Hawthorne combo, four starters hit in double figures, Coach Jim Hanny's Spartans abandoned the fullcourt press for a half-court press, and intermingled man-to-man with zone defense at various times in the contest.

Led by 6-foot-8 Tom Dunlap, 6-foot-5 Jack Guercio and 6-foot-4 John Connelly, the Vikings boast one of the tallest outfits in CIF history. Dunlap hit 19 against Mira Costa, while Connelly added 17 more digits.

Top Fuel Dragsters Run at Lions Strip

One of the best collections of fuel dragsters in years are entered in Sunday's drag racing program at Lions Drag Strip in Long Beach. Leading the driver list will be Don Prudhomme of Van Nuys. Prudhomme will be out to break the world drag record of 188.9 mph, a speed he has already bettered unofficially.

Also entered in top eliminator will be the Kieth Black-Chuck Gireth dragster. These two now hold the world boat drag record at 157 mph, and are after the land drag mark. Last Sunday they took fuel top eliminator and top time honors with a run of 178.21 mph.

Frank Cannon of Compton, who also ran well last Sunday, and Zane Shubert of Santa Ana, wound out the early entries in the fuel class.

SHUBERT, who has been idle

for the last few months, will also have a duel engine gasoline dragster on hand, so he will be going after top money in both classes.

This Sunday will be the next to the last meet prior to the big fuel and gas championships that will be held at the Long Beach Strip Friday and Saturday nights, Feb. 23 and 24. For this two-day meet, eliminations will start at 7:30 in the evening, with time trials from 1:30.

Underdog Tartars Tackle Defensive-Minded Eagles

Tenacious Torrance, battling to keep pace in the Pioneer League title chase, travels to El Segundo tomorrow at 8 p.m. for a contest vital to the Tartar's basketball ambitions.

El Segundo, deadlocked with Culver City for the league lead, must be listed as the favorite off of its earlier victory over Torrance and its win over Culver City.

Despite a 23-point performance by unheralded Jim Brennan, the Tartars almost saw their title hopes disappear Tuesday, as first-year quintet Palos Verdes came within a whisker of pulling a stunning upset.

TORRANCE managed to build up a first period cushion, and needed every basket of it before the final gun sounded as a determined Sea King drive fell just two points short, 64-62.

It was a carbon copy of the first meeting of the two clubs when Torrance eeked out a 40-39 win over the pesky Palos Verdes combo.

JUMPING off to an 18-13 first quarter lead, the Tartars managed to extend the margin to 38-29 at halftime, and it appeared THS was home free with an easy triumph.

Fiery P. V. would not let Torrance off the hook as easy as that though, and came sizzling back after intermission, outscoring the Tartars in each of the final two periods.

BRENNAN was the only Tartar to crack into double figures as the usually reliable scoring trio of Lynn Archibald, Steve Waters, and Ernie Clayton were held to a total of 22 points by the magnificent Sea King defense.

On the other hand, four P.V. cagers gunned their way into the double figure ledger in the score book. Bill McGue led the quartet with 14 points and was followed by Ray Meeker, 13 digits; Ron Elkins, 12 markers; and Pete Tucker, who threw in an additional 10 points.

RENOWNED as the finest defensive sound in the league, El Segundo also boasts a fine gunner in 6-2 center Andy Anderson. Anderson ripped Torrance apart in the two club's first meeting by connecting for 23 points.

Pouring on the offensive pressure against the Eagles in their first game, THS lumbed off to a 17-9 first quarter lead and then sat back and watched Anderson and El Segundo book into a 29-29 deadlock at the half.

STUZZING as they took the floor in the third period, ESUS ran up a 49-41 margin at the end of the third quarter and then withstood a frantic Torrance rally to take the win.

For the Tartars, Steve Waters numbed in 19 points, Lynn Archibald connected for 15 and outstanding junior starter Ernie Clayton benched home 10 more points attempting to keep up with the Eagle's furious pace.

SAXONS HOST

Disappointed Mira Costa Engages North Hoopsters

Although its title hopes were squashed by Santa Monica on Monday, Mira Costa will be battling to remain in the upper echelon of Bay League basketball squads tomorrow at 8 p.m. against North High.

Heavily backed in some quarters for the loop crown at the beginning of the season, the Mustangs watched their ambitions slip down the drain Monday, as league-leading Santa Monica passed them 67-52.

In comparison, the Saxons have very little else to do but go up in the Bay standings, following a narrow 64-57 licking from Morningside on Monday.

SO FAR this season, the only encouraging point for North has been the high-scoring gunner performances of Sparky Davidson. The lanky pivotman pumped in 16 points, slightly below his 19 points per-game average, against Morningside, but nevertheless eclipsed the single season mark at North, set last year by Jack Golphnee.

Golphnee tallied 385 last season, but Davidson now has a total of 397, and unless he hits a tremendous slump, should go above the 500 mark for the season.

UNABLE to get off the ground in the first half, North

Slipping Harbor Combo Journeys to San Diego

Slipping to fourth place in the Metropolitan Conference following a 75-67 defeat by El Camino on Friday, Harbor College attempts to duplicate a first round victory over fast-rising San Diego tomorrow night at 8 on the Knight hardwood.

Tied with ECC for the third place slot in the conference prior to the defeat, the Seahawks have been knocked out of the title chase and must now content themselves with improving their 4-5 record and surprising some of the championship-bound clubs.

In the first round of Metro action, Harbor outlasted a furious San Diego finish to walk away with a heart-stopping 65-64 triumph, but since that time, the Knights have improved while Harbor has remained steady.

Harbor will enter the Border City with three men hitting in the 13-plus per-game bracket. Ed Brisco leads the trio, averaging 13.8 markers per contest. Close on Briscoe's heels are Al Windfeldt and Charles Campbell, both hitting the nets at a 13.5 clip.

San Diego will be led into battle by another pair of 13 point cagers, Nat Mathis (13.6) and Tom Bell (13.1) comprise the bulk of the San Diego offensive force.

The Seahawks will be bolstered in their hopes for, what must be considered an upset, by the presence of Hollis Lee, Lee, a former San Pedro High star, joined the team at the beginning of the second semester and has added height and rebounding ability to the squad.

Against El Camino, Lee popped 11 points through the net to finish behind Windfeldt, 19 markers, and Campbell, 17 points, in the scoring department.



FANCY WARMUP... Intricate basketball routines, planned and impromptu hardwood comedy and razzle-dazzle ball handling come to Torrance on Feb. 15 at 7 p.m. in the South High gymnasium as the Harlem Stars step into town for an exhibition game. Sponsored by the senior class at South, the tickets will be on sale at the box office. Prices range from 50 cents for children to \$1.25 for adults.

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