



**TROUBLE TO TITLE . . .** Going from disaster to the Bay League pole vault crown, South sky-climber Chuck Smith misses at 11-4 (left), then, later in the evening, clears bar at 11-8 to win the championship. (Herald Photo by John Roberts)



## The Fearless Spectator

By **Charles McCabe, Esquire**



As you must unflinchingly know, the egg-head world is in a ferment again. About the new Webster's Third International Dictionary. A lot of our intellectual long-ball-hitters don't like some of the words and locutions that have entered Webster's sacred portals. Like ain't. Or the phrase, "Like a cigarette should."

Mark Schorer, the author, says, "I deplore it myself . . . They accept anything, because it is used."

I've got to part with Schorer here, even though he writes real good about Sinclair Lewis and William Blake and others.

A dictionary is a book of words that are used for sufficient time in speaking and writing a language. Nor more. Usage is the only arbiter of language.

More language is made in saloons than in salons. Academies for the preservation of the idiom never got anywhere anyhow.

Sports has been fairly well treated in the new book. Love is "A score of tennis." To red dog, a verb, is "To rush the passer in football."

There's a peerless definition of a screwball: "A baseball pitch having reverse spin and a break in the opposite direction to a curve."

That definition describes practically everybody I know.

They even have "foot in the bucket," which is pretty recondite baseball usage. "Batting with the foot nearest the pitcher drawn back from the plate."

The Bronx cheer, or razzberry, is delineated with pith and scholarship: "A sound of contempt or derision made by thrilling the extended tongue between the protruding lips."

So far, so good. But the portals were closed to my favorite baseball word. Slud. The past tense of slide. As, "slud into third."

This incomparable usage was foaled by Dizzy Dean, the great St. Louis Cardinal pitcher and sportscaster. Diz can speak the revealed idiom when he chooses; but he earns more money by making his language up. On the run, as it were.

"Me and Paul . . . didn't get much education" he once said, speaking of his brother Daffy, also a pitcher. Another of his innovations was the word "spart" which he later defined as "much the same as fight or pep or gumption."

In 1946, a group of Missouri schoolteachers complained to the Federal Communications Commission that Dean's broadcasts were "replete with errors in grammar and syntax" and were having "a bad effect on our pupils."

Yet writers traveled to St. Louis to hear Diz, sensing they were in the presence of a linguistic pioneer. The New York Times rose to the defense of "slud into third." Slud, the paper said, made Diz "nationally famous for his new role."

And rightly, too. For slud is a mighty meaty word. It has in it all the vitality and vulgarity of baseball. A good slide is the most exciting play in the game.

# VIKINGS DOMINATE BAY FINALS

## Loop Juggernauts Down Saxon, Spartan Trackmen

Long-time track juggernaut Santa Monica dominated the qualifying for CIF berths in the Bay League spike finals Friday night on the Mira Cost oval.

Only two other Bay League schools, both with long history's of track excellence, managed to compete on fairly even terms with the powerful Vikings—Mira Costa and Leuzinger.

For the remainder of the schools entered, very little was left but bids for individual honors.

COMPETITION was so rugged that North and South

managed only one varsity first place between them. The Spartans Chuck Smith, pole vaulting with a sprained ankle, pulled down the victory with a leap of 11-8 in his pet event.

North hurdler, Dave Lee,

finally stepped out from the shadow of teammate Gary Peters and proceeded to slip into a fifth place in the 120-yard high hurdles.

### TARTARS FALL

## Centaur's Maintain Comfortable Lead

Battling to overcome pitching wildness and a lax defense, Torrance encounters Pioneer League baseball foe Lennox at Torrance Park on Tuesday.

Plagued by lack of pitching control and the absence of an airtight, or reasonable facsimile thereof, defense, the Tartars failed in a late comeback bid Thursday, losing to league-leading Culver City 5-4.

Irv Palica was both the hero and the goat for the Tartars. His two-run double in the fifth frame kept Torrance in the contest, but a wild throw to first base by the Tartar hurler also cost two runs.

PALICA went the route on the mound, whiffing eight men

and walking four to absorb the defeat.

Held scoreless by Centaur chucker Bill Woloz until the fifth frame, Torrance finally pushed two runs across on a walk to John Cambon with two out, Terry Greason's single and Palica's double.

KEEPING the pressure on, the Tartars pushed another pair of markers across in the next stanza on doubles

THE SAXONS counted on, and got, a clutch performance from Kurt Klein in the half mile. Running against the unbeatable Mike Parson from Mira Costa, Klein failed by five yards of taking first, but put on a huge closing kick to edge by Inglewood's Al St. John just inches from the wire and took second place.

Peters, not to be completely outdone by Lee, scrambled in to fourth place in the 180-yard low hurdles.

SOUTH MENTOR Dick Scully, figuring on the varsity superiority of Samo, Mira Costa and Leuzinger, moved his athletes down into the Bee division where they fared successfully.

Chuck Hanson was the top man for South, picking up three first places in the Bee division as well as hauling in a fourth.

TORRANCE HERALD

# Sports

MAY 6, 1962

## Saxons Stay in Running For CIF Playoff Position

Keeping alive its wild hopes for a CIF baseball berth, North swept past Leuzinger 9-6 in an extra-inning encounter on Thursday.

North must win its two contests with Inglewood this week in order to remain in contention for a play-off spot. The Saxons meet the Sentinels on Tuesday at home and then visit the IHS diamond Thursday.

Deadlocked in a three-way tie for third with Redondo and Mira Costa, North must win

both of its league games. All three third place clubs boast 8-6 slates.

LEAGUE - LEADING Morningside goes up against Redondo this week. Hawthorne, the second place club with an 11-5

out 13 hits, all singles and mark, draws a bye and Mira Costa opposes South Torrance. North pitchers went to the mound, Jay Baker worked the

whisker of knocking the Saxons first four innings, Carey Hu-

playoff hopes helter skelter on Thursday, carrying a 3-1 lead

forcing the North nine into extra innings with a late seventh inning rally after NHS had gone ahead in the final frame.

THE OLYMPIAN's puntled mostly ground balls, as three North pitchers went to the mound. Jay Baker worked the first four innings, Carey Hu-



**NO QUESTION . . .** Nailing Hawthorne baserunner John Green dead to rights, North catcher Jim Baker applies tag in recent contest. The Saxons will be battling for a CIF play-off berth in a pair of contests against Inglewood this week. (Herald Photo by John Roberts)



**DIDN'T GET AWAY . . .** Casting aside the old fisherman's excuse about the big one that got away, Torrance angler Lester Watt displays 7 1/2 pound Brown he caught at Crowley Lake. Watt reeled in the finny fighter while casting a lure from the shoreline near the lake's South landing.

## Bay, Pioneer Baseball Standings

BAY LEAGUE			
Team	W	L	Pct. GB
Morningside	10	3	.769
Hawthorne	11	5	.688
Redondo	8	6	.571
Mira Costa	8	6	.571
North	6	6	.500
South	5	8	.385
Santa Monica	5	8	.385
Inglewood	4	9	.308
Leuzinger	3	11	.286

Thursday's Results  
 Inglewood 8, Morningside 6  
 Mira Costa 5, Redondo 2  
 Santa Monica 7, Hawthorne 5  
 North 9, Leuzinger 6

PIONEER LEAGUE			
Team	W	L	Pct. GB
Culver City	19	2	.881
El Segundo	8	3	.727
Lennox	7	5	.583
Lewndale	5	6	.455
Palos Verde	5	6	.455
Torrance	4	7	.364
Aviation	4	8	.333
Beverly Hills	3	9	.250

Thursday's Results  
 Culver City 5, Torrance 4  
 Beverly Hills 10, Aviation 1  
 El Segundo 6, Lewndale 2  
 Palos Verde 2, Lennox 1

INDUSTRIAL LEAGUE  
 Harvey Aluminum 18, Harbor Hornets 2  
 Post Office 14, Mobil Oil 6  
 Ryan Aeros 14, R. C. Mahon 0  
 Western Brush 3, Magnavox 1

OPEN LEAGUE  
 Lucy's Lambs 14, Normandale Indians 3

THURSDAY LEAGUE  
 Redondo J.C. (No. 1) 7, South Torrance Party House 3  
 St. Johns 2, St. Lawrence 1  
 Inproductables 9, Redondo J.C. (No. 2) 4