

# Torrance Cagers Prepare for Rough Year

## West Harriers Stun CIF Foes

### North Anticipates Successful Year

Height and experience will be plentiful at North High this term as the Saxons move into a new basketball league with hopes of a high finish.

Switching from the Bay League to the new Sky loop, North will find the going just as tough if not tougher. The circuit is so rugged that Saxon coach Skip Enger feels Bay League champ Inglewood and Pioneer crown winner Culver City, both Sky loop members, do not rate better than second or third.

Leuzinger, with two of the area's biggest men returning, is Enger's pick for the crown.

**BEVERLY HILLS**, third in the Pioneer League last year, and Morningside, are also rated highly by the North coach.

Returning lettermen for North include 6-5 center Al Lepper, a second-string All-Bay League selection; Mike Gratzke, a 6-0 forward; Terry Tierney, a 5-10 guard, and Dennis Ireland, a 5-10 guard.

**FILLING** out the top five will be Ron Taylor, a 6-8½

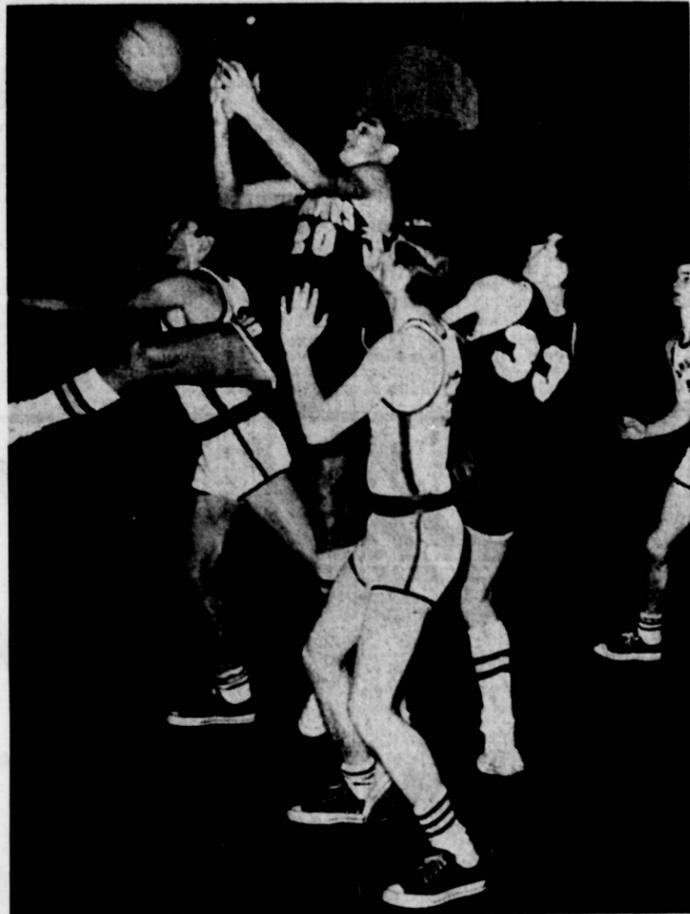
225-pound junior, who is up from the junior varsity squad. Taylor will team with Lepper as a center under Enger's double post attack.

Three junior varsity players are also being considered by Enger. Dave Hempel, a 5-10 guard; Richard Orr, a 6-1 forward; and Jim Winowski, a 6-7 center, may earn varsity positions.

**JESSE JACOBS**, a 6-0 forward; Sal Arnold, a 6-0 guard, and Terry Guengrich, a 5-5 guard, are up from the "B" squad.

Last year, North finished fifth in the Bay League and compiled a 12-13 overall season record. Missing from last season's squad are starters Carey Hubert and Steve Van Camp.

Warming up for the beginning of tournament competition, North will scrimmage South tomorrow afternoon in the Spartan gymnasium. The Saxons will begin play on Wednesday, Dec. 4, in the Pacific Shores Tournament against Hawthorne on the Aviation court.



**TOUGH CUSTOMER . . . John Cochran, a 6-2, 180-pound center, goes full blast after a loose basketball in last season's Pioneer League action. Cochran, a rough man on the boards, will return to help bolster coach Tom Sutherland's squad at West High. Cochran, an end on West's football squad, will be the key man in Sutherland's plans as the Warriors begin their second year of circuit competition.** (Herald Photo)

### TITLE THREAT

## West Eyes Improved Year With Four Lettermen Back

West High basketball coach Tom Sutherland finds himself in an amazing position this year—the Warriors will be a Pioneer League title threat although they are only in their second season of competition.

Four lettermen return and Sutherland describes the entire team as a group of "real hustlers and hard workers." He says, "We should be much improved over last year."

Sutherland feels his team will be improved to a degree that they will battle Torrance and El Segundo for the runner-up position in the league. He places Aviation on top of the stack.

**MISSING** from last year's squad are Bob Hebert, Steve

Cooke and Jerry Colen, but four starters will return. Back are 6-2 center John Cochran, 6-2 forward Terry Febles, 6-0 forward Richard Hall, and 6-0 guard John Marsden.

Lack of height will be the main Warrior weakness, Sutherland feels. He lists defense as his squad's main asset. Hall will offer West its main scoring threat, Sutherland feels. Last year, Hall turned in a pair of 23-point performances and wound up the year with a 10-point average.

**LAST YEAR**, Hall was "inexperienced and nervous," Sutherland said, but "he has really looked great in practice."

Three players up from jun-

ior varsity figure to help the Warriors, Dan Galla, a 6-0 forward; Pat Hall, a 5-10 guard, and Dan Thomas, a 6-8 guard, are being touted for starting berths.

Sutherland will also bring up three players from the "B" team. Dave LaRoche, a 6-0 forward; Mike Phillips, a 5-8 guard, and Mike Lewis, a 5-10 guard, will add depth to the West attack.

**WEST FINISHED** 7th in the nine-team Pioneer circuit last year and wound up their first season in history with a 4-14 mark. During the first round of league play, West turned in its best game against Aviation, losing by only five points.

### Tribe Cindermen Qualify For Southern Section Meet

Even the top cross country teams in the CIF are unable to curb with the success of West High.

Friday afternoon, the Warriors finished second in the CIF preliminaries at Centinela Park in Inglewood to qualify for Wednesday's Southern Section finals at Long Beach State College.

Although West has only one year of experience behind it, the Warriors have been a dominant force in Southland cross country throughout the season.

**WEST CONTINUED** its onslaught Friday, finishing second behind Crespi in the small schools division to qualify for the CIF finals. Crespi recorded 22 points to 53 for West, 101 for Atascadero and 107 for Fillmore.

Two juniors, Ron Pettigrew and Tom Jurco, again led the Warrior fortunes. Pettigrew finished in 7th place, recording a 10:13 clocking over the two-mile course to beat Jurco by only one second.

**JURCO GRABBED** the 9th

spot with a 10:14 clocking. Dick Buchanan, the only senior among the top five West runners, wound up in 10th place with a 10:17 effort.

Trailing for West were freshman Mike Sellers, 12th in 10:20; junior Dave Graham, 15th in 10:25; Lou Bisou, 21st in 10:37; and Dan Ritchie, 33rd in 10:42. Bisou and Ritchie are both seniors.

Optimistic Warrior coach Bob Holtel said, "We have an excellent chance to place among the top five in the CIF finals."

**ANOTHER** Southland cross country powerhouse, South High, also qualified for the CIF finals. South finished in third place in the "AA" division at Centinela Park.

Powerful San Marcos recorded 59 points and Bay League champ Mira Costa tallied 76 to edge South. The Spartans wound up with 79 markers.

Steady Wes Fox, recovering from a bout with the flu, stunned Mira Costa's two top runners and finished fifth overall with a 9:50 clocking. It was the

first time Fox has topped the Mustang runners.

**ALSO PLACING** for South were Lenny Jay, 12th in 9:58; Dave Ledford, 16th in 10:00; Mike Mooring, 20th in 10:03; Dave Palmer, 26th in 10:05; Dennis Ayala, 49th in 10:37; and Ken Boyers, 50th in 10:39.

Spartan coach Dick Scully appears confident of a high finish in the finals. His club has been consistently closing in on Mira Costa, one of the top cross country powers in the Southland.

**IN THE** Bay League finals, Mira Costa edged South by six points and Friday afternoon boasted only a three-point margin over the Spartans.

In addition to the preliminaries run at Centinela Park, prelims were also held at Mount San Antonio. Adding to Scully's optimism was the fact that South has beaten all of the teams that ran at Mt. SAC.

A scheduled CIF preliminary set at Sunny Hills Friday was postponed until Monday due to the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

## Montgomery Bids For New Record

Bettering last season's basketball record will take some doing for Bishop Montgomery and its second-year coach Roger Folsom.

Folsom took over the reins at Montgomery last year and immediately guided the Knights to their finest season in history. BMHS picked up a 13-10 season record and finished second in the Camino Real League with a 9-5 mark. Previously, Montgomery teams had a good year, if they picked up five triumphs.

**SIX LETTERMEN** will return to help Folsom continue his success. Back are 6-0 forward Tony Guggiana, 6-0 forward Tom Jamison, 6-1 forward Dennis Blackburn, 6-1 center John O'Connell, 5-7 guard Pat

Macarrone, and 5-11 guard Bill Brown.

The major Montgomery loss through graduation was 6-6 center Paul Deyden, who has gone on to win a starting position on the Loyola University freshman team.

**TO REPLACE** Deyden's height, Folsom will have 6-7 freshman center John Plick and 6-3 junior forward Mike Grey. Grey played in his freshman year at Montgomery but sat out last season.

"We have good experience in our starting five, but from there on out the kids are still learning," Folsom said.

"If we can get rebounds and hit a decent percentage, we will win our share," Folsom predicted. The Knight mentor feels his team's main strength is its shooting while rebounding is its weakness.

**GUGGIANA** and Brown both averaged over 10 points a game last year and are again expected to top the Montgomery offense.

Rating the Camino Real League, Folsom feels St. Monica and Lasuen will vie for the crown with Montgomery in the title picture if it gets "some come-through performances."

Montgomery will open its practice season on Tuesday, Dec. 3, at Mount Carmel.

## Ben Steele Will Lead Big Field

Point leader Ben Steele of Gardena will lead a 50-car field in tonight's Figure Eight stock car racing program at Gardena's Ascot Park.

Racing over the criss-cross course will begin at 7:45 p.m. while time trials are booked for 7.

Topping the planned 70 laps of racing is a 15-lap main event for the 10 fastest qualifier of the night. Comprising the card are a 10-lap semi-main, five 8-lap heat races and a 6-lap trophy dash. A special 8-lap Powder Puff Derby for women drivers is also planned.

**STEELE**, with six feature victories to his credit, will attempt to extend his point lead against a field that includes 12 main event victors.

Willis Hartman, seeking his third main event triumph, should offer Steele his chief competition.

## Bullets Seek Winter Loop Baseball Win

Continuing their bid for a second straight Los Angeles County Winter Baseball League championship, the Torrance Bullets will meet the Watts Giants at 1:30 p.m. today on the Sportsman Park diamond.

Originally scheduled last week, the game was cancelled due to poor field conditions caused by a rain that shut down sports activities throughout the Southland.



**HERE IS HOW . . . Pop Warner adviser Cloy Timms checks out the procedure of two Torrance players in recent practice sessions. Local teams take the field every Sunday afternoon at Southland high school fields. (Herald Photo)**



**CORRECT FORM . . . Cloy Timms (right) and John Sarpolis instruct two Pop Warner players in the fine art of passing. In the most important Warner game of the year, the Torrance Blue Devils will travel to Gardena this afternoon in an attempt to clinch the South Bay Conference crown. Undeclared against circuit opposition, Torrance already owns an invitation to a San Diego bowl game. (Herald Photo)**

## Women Hit Big Scores In Bowling

Six Torrance keglers have come away with Bowler of the Week honors recently at the Gable House Bowl.

Gaining recognition in the women's division were Dottie Jones, Margaret Denzer and Irene Cunningham. Lyman Guyman, Lee Williams and Roger Evans were honored among the men.

More and more women are challenging the men for top scores at Gable House. During the past week, 22 lady bowlers hit above the 200 mark in league competition. Carmen Fuscardo, bowling in the Majorettes League, paced all of the females.

**MRS. FUSCARDO** fired eight strikes in a row for a 276 game and also recorded 204 and 209 scores.

Other high-scoring women included Dee Cecil, 213; Norma Fraser, 201; Rose Wilson, 208; Mary Ball, 215; Eloise Maddox, 242 and 207; Lorry Haisten, 255; Jean Bidwell, 213; Boots Gesner, 212; Vi Craig, 210; Karin Hall, 202, and Peggy Burgan, 202.

**JEANNE BATTY**, 203; Toots Cochran, 225; June Goebel, 228; Anita Sammis, 225; Freda Byke, 200; Sally Howell, 213; Helen Lind, 236; Mary Ann Kramer, 200; Janelle Hunt, 225, and Naomi Kast, 113, also broke the 200 mark.



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## Graduation Hurts Torrance Cagers

Tiny and inexperienced Torrance High will have its hands full in Pioneer League basketball competition this season.

Head Tartar coach Will Boerger will have only one letterman returning and Torrance will boast the smallest team in the circuit.

Attempting to improve on its third-place league finish last year, the Tartars will have only 5-11 forward Mike Hatter returning. Lost through graduation were starters Lynn Archibald, Steve Waters, Ernie Clayton and John Ricci.

**TEAMING** with Hatter on the first string will be 6-2 center Walt Hale, up from the junior varsity; 5-11 forward Keith Patton 5-10 guard Bob Brennan, and 5-9 guard Gary White.

Torrance will garner additional strength from last year's strong junior varsity, "B" and "C" squads. The Tartars won the "B" and "C" league championships last year while the Jayvees finished above the 500 mark.

**IN ADDITION** to his starting

five, Boerger plans to rely on 5-9 guard Bob Romero, 5-11 guard Jim Crockett, guard Dave Day, guard Tim Lehr, forward Mike Blankenship, and forward Benny Magnante.

Crockett was the leading scorer on the "C" squad last year while Blankenship, 6-0, 200-pound junior, is coming off an outstanding football season. Blankenship appeared in five varsity cage tilts last year.

Boerger gets a pleased gleam in his eye when Richard Davies is mentioned. A 6-5, 190-pound junior transfer from South Carolina, Davies is "a real comer" according to the Tartar mentor.

**LOOKING** at his Pioneer League opposition, Boerger feels Aviation will take the championship with West second and El Segundo, Torrance, Lawndale and Lennox scrambling for the third slot.

Preparing for the opening of competition on Wednesday, Dec. 4, in the Pacific Shores Tournament, Torrance will travel to Redondo Tuesday afternoon for a scrimmage.

## Spartan Success Depends on Soph

Optimism is the key word regarding South High's basketball fortunes.

Three starters are back from last year's squad and head South coach Jim Hanny predicts, "We will be better in every position."

Despite the three monogram winners, Hanny says, "Much of our success depends on how Steve Kuckenbecker comes around."

**ONLY** A sophomore, Kuckenbecker is a 6-5 center. He will team with 6-3 forward Don Denson, 5-11 guard Byron Schweigert and 6-5 center John Thomas to complete the top four Spartans.

Hanny says, "The fifth spot on our club is wide open. Bidding for the fifth starting slot are 6-3 junior Dave Kuckenbecker, 6-3 forward Steve Boggs, 6-2 forward Steve French, 6-3 center Doug Boggs,

6-4 center Rodney Bodig, 5-11 guard Jim Torgerson, 6-1 forward and Dean Johnston, and 6-2 forward Doug Dinnel.

**SOUTH WILL** field its biggest team in history, according to Hanny. "We will have good shooting and a greatly improved defense," Hanny predicts. Topping the South offensive will be Denson, a third-string All-Bay League selection, who averaged 15.6 points per game.

Schweigert and Thomas are also expert gunners, according to Hanny.

Despite the size of South's starting lineup—Hanny says he will probably open up with two men at 6-3 and two men at 6-5—the Spartans will present opponents with good speed.

"Our main problem is a lack of board experience, and this can be solved by Steve Kuckenbecker," Hanny says.