

North Reaches Tourney Finals

TORRANCE HERALD

Sports

6 GREGG PETERSON, Sports Editor DECEMBER 8, 1963

YMCA Elevens to Continue Flag Football at South High

Two elevens are currently battling for the top spot in Torrance YMCA Hi-Y flag football competition.

With five games under their belts, the Carsairs lead the league with a 4-0-1 record while the Trojans, who have played only four games, have a 3-1-0 mark.

Trailing in the nine-team circuit are the Aces, 3-2-0; the Jaguars, 2-1-1; the Dolphins, 2-2-0; the Hawks, 2-3-0; the Chevilles, 1-3-0; the Warriors, 1-3-0; and the Eagles, 0-3-0.

The YMCA has adopted the flag football program because it offers good competition and lacks the heavy body contact which is not desirable for some youths, according to program director Bill Poser.

"The basic equipment for flag football is a desire, a pair of blue jeans, a T-shirt, tennis shoes and two long, brightly-colored pieces of cloth that players tuck in the sides of their belt," Poser explains.

Poser says that "Flag football is fast and requires the development of skills in running, passing, and pass catching, punting and brush blocking."

As in all of its activities, the YMCA attempts to instill a spirit of sportsmanship in all of the players. After each game, the members of both teams judge each other on their sportsmanship performance. At the end of the year, one club receives a pennant for good sportsmanship.



YMCA REFS . . . Dick Marshall Sr. and his son, Dick Marshall Jr., help referee a recent Torrance YMCA flag football contest. Flag football competition is held Saturday mornings at the South High field. A nine-team league is currently mid-way through its season.

Tartars Crumble In Loss

Falling apart in the final quarter, Torrance High dropped a 48-43 decision to Cul-City Friday night and was eliminated from the Pacific Shores basketball tournament.

Carrying a five-point lead into the final stanza, Torrance potted only three points in the last eight minutes as Culver City closed the gap and went ahead with a 13-digit outburst.

"We just ran out of gas and lost our team discipline," Tartar mentor Will Boerger commented after the game.

IT WAS AN up and down contest as Culver moved into an 18-11 lead after the first quarter but was held to a 23-23 deadlock at intermission. Torrance outscored the Centaurs 17-12 in the third stanza before folding.

Make Hatter, the lone returning Tartar letterman, was the only Torrance cager to hit in double figures, dropping 16 points through the hoop to lead all scorers.

CULVER, THE defending tournament and Pioneer League champion, received a 13-point performance from 6-9 Jeff Eckmier and a 12-point effort from 6-6 Bob Levy.

In the opening round of the tournament, powerful Loyola nudged Torrance, 53-51. Loyola held a 14-12 bulge after one quarter, trailed 25-24 at half-time, led 41-38 after three periods, and then held off a later Tartar rally for the victory.

FORWARDS Walt Hale and Keith Patton potted 13 and 11 points respectively to boost the Tartars. Guard Bob Brennan, with 12 markers, was the third Torrance man to hit in double figures.

Three Loyola gunners responded with double-digit efforts led by the 22-point performance of Larry Cabera.

TORRANCE'S only triumph of the tourney came in the second round against Santa Monica. THS increased Samo's losing streak to 19 straight with an 78-49 decision.

Santa Monica dropped 17 straight dukes last season in a winless campaign and added two more defeats to the total in the tournament.

THE TARTARS led all the way, outscoring Santa Monica in every quarter but the third, to post their first victory of the year. Hale responded with 19 points to top Torrance, followed by Hatter with 14, Bob Romero with 15 and substitute Gary White with 16.



CLUTCH BASKET . . . North High center Al Lepper drives in for two points during the three-minute overtime period that the Saxons needed Friday night to hang a 70-68 defeat on Mira Costa and advance into the final round of the Pacific Shores Tournament. North romped over Hawthorne and Palos Verdes prior to licking the Mustangs. The Saxons met Redondo in the championship contest last night. (Herald Photo)

Saxons Topple Micohi

Forward Mike Gratzke dropped in a five-foot shot with six seconds left in an overtime period Friday night to give North a 70-68 win over Mira Costa and send the Saxons hurtling into the final round of the Pacific Shores cage tournament.

Gratzke's clutch shot came after North had played come-from-behind ball throughout the second half, caught up and gone ahead with seconds left in regulation play, and been tied at the final buzzer.

Mira Costa appeared destined to send the game into a second overtime when it overcame a two-point North lead and tied the game, setting up Gratzke's winning shot.

THE FIRST half was a saw-saw affair before Mira Costa broke open the contest with a big surge just two minutes before intermission. North was ahead 31-30, but the Mustangs began moving their fast break and exited at halftime with a 39-31 bulge.

North slowly chopped into the lead and pulled ahead in the dying moments of the game before Mira Costa, ranked as the top quintet in the Bay League, knotted the count and forced the extra three-minute session.

En route to the semi-finals, North clipped Hawthorne, 78-41, and hung a 71-44 defeat on Palos Verdes.

TWO MEN hit in double figures for North as the Saxons led Hawthorne all the way and outscored the Cougars in every period. Forward Mike Gratzke dumped in 17 markers and All-Bay League center Al Lepper contributed 14 points in the Hawthorne contest.

Twelve men hit the scoring column for North as head coach Skip Enger cleared his bench in an attempt to dish out experience and hold the score down against the out-manned Cougars.

NORTH HELD a 21-11 bulge following the first quarter and increased the margin to 40-20 at halftime. Still holding a hot hand, the Saxons piled on 21 points in the third period compared to 7 for Hawthorne and finished with a 17-point splurge in the last quarter while holding the Cougars to 14.

There was never any doubt as to the outcome of the contest as North dominated the affair right from the opening moment. Height, a rare commodity at North, paved the way for the win. Enger has Lepper, 6-5; Ron Taylor, 6-8; and Jim Winowski, 6-5, to throw against opposing quintets.

ACCURATE passes and pinpoint shooting allowed North to post 43 points in the first half against Palos Verdes in the second round of the tournament.

Tribe Impressive in Classic Despite Consecutive Defeats

West High dropped two straight games in the Pacific Shores Tournament the past week, but in the process the Warriors found they could keep pace with almost any basketball squad in the Southland.

In their opening game of the year, the Redskins suffered a 57-38 licking at the hands of tourney title contender Mira Costa. The following day, South held off a frantic West rally and picked up a 57-56

win to eliminate the Warriors from the classic.

Against Mira Costa, West did not hit a field goal until more than five minutes had elapsed in the first quarter. The Warriors narrowly closed the Micohi gap until seconds before intermission when the Mustangs potted six straight points to move into a 30-23 advantage.

AFTER HALFTIME, Mira Costa scored on four straight fast breaks to end West's bid for an upset.

Highly-touted Mustang center Neville Saner was held in check much of the night by 6-foot West defender John Marsden. A junior, Marsden limited Saner to five points in the second half and 11 counters in the opening two periods.

JOHN COCHRAN, rugged 6-2 forward for West, yanked down 17 rebounds to outshine Saner. Richard Hall, the Warrior's top scorer last year, led West in the point producing department with 12 markers. He was the only Redskin to hit in double figures.

Against South, West trailed by 9 points most of the second and third quarters before rallying to scare the big Spartans. With three minutes to play, West moved within 3 points at 52-49 but fell back to five with 1:10 still left.

A BUCKET and two free throws trimmed the gap to one point with eight seconds left, but a missed layup as time ran out cost West the upset.

CONSOLATION FINALISTS

Spartans Shock Opposition In Pacific Shores Classic

Surprisingly strong South High moved into the consolation finals of the Pacific Shores basketball tournament Friday night with a 63-46 win over Hawthorne.

Behind the 18 rebounds of 6-5 sophomore Steve Kuckenbecker and a 38 per cent shooting average, South led all the way and notched its second triumph in three starts.

Consistent All-Bay League Don Denson potted 26 points to top the Spartans. John Thomas, a 6-5 senior center, came up with 14 digits to back up Denson.

SOUTH LED 14-10 at the end of the opening period and held a 33-23 bulge at halftime. Hawthorne cut the gap to 43-36 after three quarters, but the Spartans salted the contest

away with a 20-point splurge in the last period.

Sky League powerhouse Leuzinger handed South a 71-61 licking in the opening round of the classic. Denson, with 27 markers, was the only Spartan to hit in double figures as Leuzinger piled up an unbeatable lead by the end of three periods.

LED BY Denson, South came up with a 27-point final period, but it was too late and the Spartans were forced into the consolation round of the tournament.

Cross-town foe West gave South its first triumph of the season, but the Spartan win came only after some frantic final minutes.

Led by Kuckenbecker, South led almost all of the way after

opening up a nine-point lead in the second period. Kuckenbecker, playing in only his second varsity engagement, shoved 21 points through the hoop to join two teammates in the double-figure category.

WITH 1:30 left to play, South held a 57-50 lead, but two bad shots and a give-away allowed West to close the gap.



POLICE SPONSORED CHAMPS . . . Torrance Chief of Police Percy Bennett, right, accepts a trophy from representatives of the Junior Bantam Division of pop Warner Football, South Bay Conference Champions. The team has been sponsored by the Torrance Police Officers Assn. since the team's inception four years ago. Presenting the championship trophy are Ray Futrell, left, assistant coach, and Ralph Hogue, head coach. (Herald Photo)

Last-Chance Shot Nips Montgomery

Defending Camino Real League basketball champ Alemany scored in the final second of play Friday night to defeat Bishop Montgomery, 63-62, in a non-circuit engagement.

Montgomery played catch-up ball for more than three quarters and finally caught up with two minutes to go. The Knights pulled ahead by one point with 10 seconds left, but went reeling to defeat with the last-chance basket.

LAST YEAR Alemany won 14 straight league games and went to the CIF eliminations where they lost to eventual "AA" division champ El Segundo in an overtime.

Junior guard Bill Brown and Tony Guggiana kept Montgomery in the ball game. Brown dropped in 23 markers and Guggiana added 21 points. No

other Knight managed more than 7 digits and that was the difference.

It was Alemany in the first half as Montgomery trailed 17-12 after one quarter and 36-28 at intermission. The story was reversed in the final two quarters as Montgomery out-scored Alemany 15-13 in the third period and 19-14 in the last quarter.

KNIGHT head coach Roger Folsom credited 6-7 center John Plick with "playing an outstanding game for a freshman." Plick entered the fray in the second half after regular center John O'Connell had fouled out. In the closing seconds, Plick hit two field goals to keep the Montgomery comeback moving.

Lennox will host Montgomery at 3 p.m. Tuesday in another non-league battle.

REBOUNTING HURTS

Camino Five Drops Two Non-Conference Games

Lack of experienced rebounders cost El Camino College two non-conference basketball decisions this weekend.

Cross-town rival Harbor College earned a 79-77 decision Thursday night and Compton picked up a 96-73 triumph Friday evening. In both cases Camino was soundly out-rebounded off the defensive board.

Camino's main hope in the rebounding department is 6-19 sophomore Dan Caton, who has never played varsity basketball before. Head Warrior mentor George Stanich feels Caton is coming along offensively, but is still having defensive troubles.

FIVE HARBOR players cracked the 10-point figure against Camino. Huge sophomore Willie Montgomery turned in his finest effort,

pouring 22 points through the hoop to lead all scorers. Montgomery is a 6-3, 240-pound shot put champion.

Jimmy Splitgerber (16), Ivory Wilson (14), Harry Gravett (14) and Steve Gregg (19), backed up Montgomery in the scoring column.

Fast-breaking El Camino was led by Bobby Garcia's 20 points and freshman Jim Boyd's 10 markers. Garcia, a diminutive veteran, is described by Stanich as a "real steadying influence." Lloyd has "great potential," according to the Warrior boss.

MONTGOMERY and Gravett pushed Harbor into a 41-38 halftime lead against Camino. After intermission, the Seahawks boosted their lead by seven points before Lloyd hit on six successive points for Camino.

It was nip-and-tuck until Wilson began dumping in offensive rebounds and Harbor pulled into a 71-60 bulge with four minutes left.

Stanich then sent his men into a full-court press and Harbor was baffled. Clark Canfield and Ed Palmquist hit on two-pointers to move ECC within five points. With 1:14 left, the Harbor lead was whittled down to one point at 76-75.

THREE HARBOR free throws and a jump shot by Canfield left Harbor ahead 79-77 with seven seconds left. Garcia and Splitgerber tied up the Warrior basket and a jump ball was called. Harbor controlled and that was the game.

Camino will host the Valley State Frosh on Tuesday at 8 p.m. in its first home tilt of the year.