

South Falls Short in Upset Bid

TORRANCE HERALD

Sports

6

GREGG PETERSON, Sports Editor

JANUARY 12, 1964

CRUCIAL DEFEAT

Aviation Crushes Torrance In Pioneer League Opener

Power-packed Aviation stunned Torrance with a fast break and deadly outside shooting Friday night to register a 78-55 Pioneer League cage win in a battle of title contenders. Aviation left little doubt as to why it is the league favorite as it outscored Torrance in every quarter and completely hobbled the "unprepared" Tartars.

Tartar coach Will Boerger felt his club was not prepared for the league opener and said

NHS Ends Six Year Loss Jinx

Six years of frustration for North High and coach Skip Enger ended Friday night as the Saxons finally won a basketball game at Morningside.

Although the outcome was in doubt until the final three minutes, North opened Sky League competition with a 68-55 win over the Monarchs and gave Enger his first win on the Morningside court.

It took three men in double figures and two technical fouls on Enger for the Saxons to knock off the upset-minded Monarchs.

TERRY TIERNEY (19), Al Lepper (18) and Ron Taylor (15) gave North the needed scoring punch.

Enger's two technicals came in the third period when the usually calm mentor went into a heated debate with the referee. Two back-to-back technicals later, Enger decided the referee was right, or at least the referee.

North's offense puts a great deal of stress on going to the four line, but the Saxons were awarded a total of only 19 charity tosses in the rough-house contest.

Morningside kept in the game by hitting 11 of 14 free throws. North collected on 12 of its 19 charity attempts.

DOWN 13-11 after the first quarter, Morningside came back to knot the count at 29-29 before intermission.

Lepper suddenly got hot for North in the third period and poured in 11 points as the Saxons outscored Morningside, 18-9. Lepper also collected his fourth foul in the third quarter and sat out all but the final three minutes of the closing stanza.

Bullet Nine Eyes Eighth County Win

Seeking their eighth Los Angeles County Winter Baseball League win in nine starts, the Tordena Bullets will meet the Watts Giants today at 1:30 p.m. in Will Rogers Park.

Tordena remained in first place with a 9-1 triumph over the Compton Pirates on Sunday.

El Camino College hurler Jay Baker picked up the win, fanning eight men. West High's John Marsden, Torrance High's Mike Dutcher and Tony Crosser also took turns on the mound.

Bullet mentor Bob Prior credited Brent Nickoloff (North High), Mike Brooks (El Camino), Steve Sogge (Gardena High) and Bob Wallace with top defensive efforts.

Jack Crist of Gardena High led a seven-hit attack with two safeties and five RBIs.

Aviation was a much stronger quintet than he had believed.

TWO BIG MEN, Gary Dinnel and Steve Willis, poured in 47 points between them, most of the markers coming in the first half, to power the Falcons.

Dinnel, playing his finest game ever, dropped in 27 points, 17 in the opening half. Willis canned 20, 12 coming in the first 16 minutes, and was a key man in the Aviation fast break.

Willis consistently got behind Torrance's guards to take long passes and go in for easy lay-ups.

WALT HALE topped Torrance with 15 markers, but 8 came in the final period when the game was already out of reach. Mike Hatter plunked in 10 points, 9 arriving in the first half.

Big Jim Davies, the tallest man on the Tartar squad at 6-5, kept Torrance in the game after the opening whistle with three quick buckets. Davies was unable to continue the pace and wound up with six points.

Down by 14 markers at half-time, Torrance rallied in the third period and cut the gap to

8 points, but Aviation pulled itself together and went on to the easy win.

BOERGER SAID four things paved the way for Aviation. The Tartar mentor felt Willis' ability to get the cripples, Torrance's ineffective zone press, Aviation's effective 1-3-1 zone, and the Falcon rebounding were the key reasons behind the THS defeat.

Center Dennis Hayden, just recently off the injured list, junior Roy Hamey, and Dinnel dominated the boards for Aviation.

NEXT IN LINE for THS is a non-league tussle with Sky League powerhouse North High on Tuesday. The Tartars will journey to North for the 3 p.m. battle.

It will be two crosstown foes in a row for Torrance when the Tartars meet West on Friday in a league engagement.

While North may be the strongest club in the city and one of the CIF's top quintets, West has also started to come around after a dismal beginning. The Warriors opened their league year with a two-point win over El Segundo on Friday.

Redondo Collars Spartan Cagers In Last Seconds

Once-beaten Redondo staved off a gutty fourth quarter upset bid by South High Friday night to register a 71-70 win in the opening round of Bay League cage action.

Don Denson poured in 17 points during the final eight minutes as South raced from 14 points behind to collar the lead at 70-69 with only 23 seconds left in the game.

South let Redondo have the hard shots with only seconds left to play, and tiny Seahawk forward Harry Jenkins popped a baseline jumper through the cords as the Bay League favorite came off the deck for the win with only 15 seconds left.

"We played as well as we can," a disappointed Jim Haney said after the game. The South mentor added, "I haven't seen a better team all year than Redondo."

It was almost all Denson as South began to close the huge gap in the closing minutes. With 1:22 left, the 6-3 forward hit from 25 feet and Redondo held only a 69-66 edge.

Denson drew a foul and sank two shots as Redondo clung to a 69-68 margin. Denson then fouled Jenkins, but he missed his first shot and South gobbled up the rebound.

A quick pass went to Steve French and the South junior scored on a driving lay-up that left the Spartans ahead of the first time since the opening period.

South went into a half-court press, but to no avail as Jenkins kept Redondo on the way to its predicted league crown.

Denson tallied exactly half of South's 70 points, collecting 35 markers. The All-Bay League forward, playing his first game in more than two weeks, connected on 11 of 13 free throws as he helped improve his season average of 24 points.

Byron Schweigert, with 13 markers, was the only other Spartan to connect in double figures.

Redondo put up a balanced scoring front as four starters wound up with more than 10 points. Bob Clemo (23), Paul Hoffman (15), Jeff Simms (14), and Harry Jenkins (13) demolished the Spartans.

From the outset it was Redondo as the Hawks built up a 19-15 edge after one quarter and carried a 43-34 bulge into the locker room. South was behind 58-48 after three periods but almost pulled it out with a 22-point spurge in the last stanza.

Rich Ruffell Tops Party House Win

Rich Ruffell topped all Torrance Recreation Department scorers the past week with a 26-point performance as he led Party House to a 72-41 triumph over Parker Aircraft in a Tuesday Open League cage tussle.

Ruffell was backed up by an 18-point effort by Joe Austin and a 15-point performance by Dave Corman. Larry Lay carded 17 points for the losers and Daniel Bora added 12 more markers.

In other Tuesday Open League play, Wreck Aides earned a 60-43 nod over Redondo Ward and T. R. W. Semi managed a 34-22 decision over the Harbor Hornets.

BILL REINERT (18) and Tracy O'Connor (13) led the Wreck Aides while Clark Merrill (14) and Fred Hoops (12) were high point men for Redondo Ward.

Dave Treleven accounted for 15 T.R.W. Semi points while Charley Howard and Ed Turner canned six markers each for the Harbor Hornets.

Despite a 16-point effort by manager Dick Jensen and a 12-digit game by Philip Nelson, Resurrection Lutheran dropped a 52-35 contest to Torrance First Baptist in Torrance Area Church League play.

Paul Plunkett (16) and Howard Taylor (11) were top gunners for the winners.

DANNY GEORGE canned 15 points and James Batema added 11 as Torrance First Lutheran picked up a 38-31 win over the Walteria Assembly of God. Ronald Goble canned 15 markers for Walteria.

Three players finished in double digits for the King's Men as Redondo First Baptist absorbed a 52-39 licking. Bob Hubert led the King's Men with 18 points while Pat Calvey added 11 and Don Peterson came through with 10 more.

Dan Kerbeg kept Redondo in the game with a 24-point outburst.

Tolson - Vaughn Realty continued its high-scoring ways in the second round of Thursday Open League action, chalking up an 85-36 win over El Camino Real Realty.

Compton Hands Harbor Second Circuit Licking

Unable to make up a 16-point halftime deficit, Harbor College went down to its second consecutive Western States Conference defeat Friday night as Compton College pulled down an 83-80 cage win.

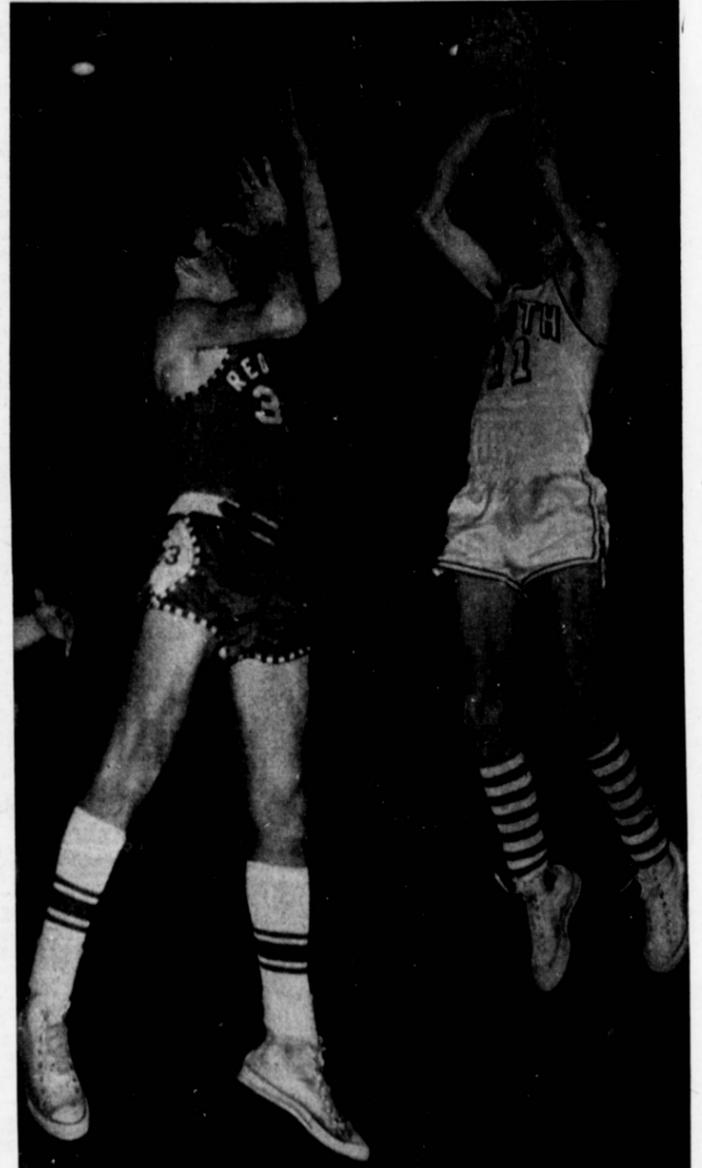
Harbor trailed 47-31 at intermission as Compton completely dominated the first 20 minutes of play, but the picture changed radically in the second stanza.

Four Harbor players wound up in double figures in a vain attempt to keep the Seahawks in the conference title chase. Consistent Jim Splittgerber, a 5-9 freshman guard, carded 22 points to top all scorers.

Harbor received additional scoring punch from 6-3 center Steve Gregg (16), 5-11 forward Harry Gravett (17) who came off the bench, and 6-1 forward Ivory Wilson (10).

Rick Brodbeck, a 6-1 forward, powered Compton to the win with a 21-point outburst. Brodbeck received scoring support from 5-10 guard Paul Heller (15) and substitute Art King (10), who is a 6-2 center.

On Tuesday, Harbor opened its conference campaign with a 118-85 loss to powerful Glendale. Jim Wielochowski stuffed 64 points through the cords for Glendale to overshadow a 22-point effort by Splittgerber.



MIGHTY MITE . . . South High's Byron Schweigert, a 5-11 guard, shoots over Redondo's 6-3 forward Paul Hoffman Friday night in the opening game of the Bay League campaign. Hoffman, with 15 points, was one of four Redondo players in double figures as the Seahawks picked up a 71-70 triumph. Schweigert was the second high-point man for South with 13 markers. (Herald Photo)

WEST JELLS

Warriors Stun El Segundo For Initial Cage Triumph

Two clutch free throws by guard Danny Thomas in the final eight seconds triggered West High to a 52-50 Pioneer League cage triumph over El Segundo Friday night.

Winless going into the first league contest, West outplayed the defending CIF "AA" division champs almost every step of the way and twice held 12-point leads, but still the Warriors needed the two charity tosses by Thomas.

In both the second and third periods West threatened to run away and hide, building up 12 points leads, but El Segundo came back and knotted the contest with four minutes remaining.

THE SEE-SAW contest reached a peak with 15 seconds left when Dick Spence brought the Eagles from two points back with a short jump shot and knotted the count at 50-50.

Then Thomas stepped into the limelight. The 5-8 guard was fouled with only eight seconds left, and he proceeded to sink both shots in a one-and-one situation.

All year long Warrior coach Tom Sutherland has claimed he has a top-rate team, but West waited until the league opener to prove he was right.

THOMAS WOUND up at the West gunner with 13 points and he was the key man in the Warrior's successful attempt to elude the constant El Segundo press.

Three other Redskins gave Thomas prominent scoring support. Terry Febles, Rich Hall and John Marsden all carded nine points.

Hall, usually the top West point-producer, picked up four fouls in the opening quarter and sat out both the second and third periods. When he returned to action in the last stanza, Hall almost immediately picked up his fifth per-

onal and retired from the game.

DAVE LaROCHE, Hall's replacement, came up with seven points.

Febles was the key man on the boards for West, as he pulled down 14 rebounds, most of them coming in crucial situations. It was Febles' top rebounding performance as a Warrior.

John Marsden, a steady defensive ace, also played his best rebounding game, yanking down eight mis-guided shots.

ONLY TWO El Segundo players finished in double figures, and one was a substitute. Spence canned 14 markers to top the Eagles and Ron Williams came off the bench to contribute 10 digits.

West moved into a 14-10 lead after one quarter and held a 24-20 bluge at intermission. El Segundo narrowed the gap to 40-38 in the third period and set the stage for a traumatic final stanza.

The Warriors scored first and were never headed although El Segundo managed to deadlock the count several times in the final four minutes.

Sluggish El Camino College absorbed its second straight Metropolitan Conference cage loss Friday night as Valley College snared a tight 73-71 win on its home court.

Two big scorers overcame El Camino's well-balanced quartet as Valley rallied in the final minutes to overcome a four-point Warrior edge.

Valley managed a 30-24 halftime bulge, but El Camino bounced back and went ahead 65-61 before the Monarchs finally got hot and turned the tide.

LEN McELHANNON wound up with 24 points and was the main factor in Valley's comeback. McElhannon connected on four consecutive outside jumpers within three minutes to push Valley ahead.

Willie Hearnton, a 6-5, 150-pound center, finished with 23 points for the Monarchs.

All five El Camino starters turned in double figure performances, but it was not enough. Steady Bob Garcia, a

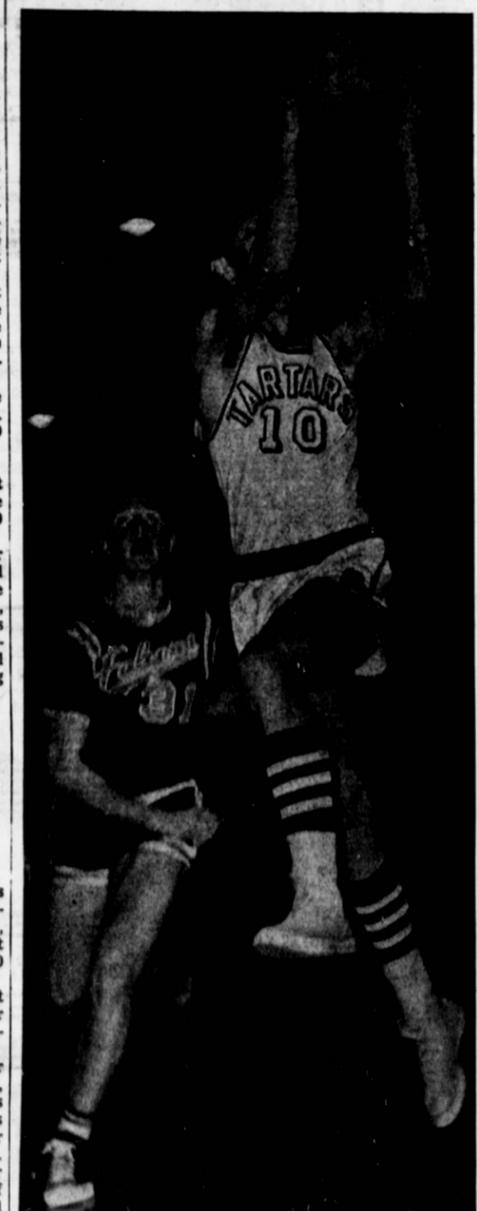
cat-quick guard from Santa Barbara, fired in 20 points to top Camino.

JIM BRENNAN and Clark Canfield accounted for 15 points each while Jim Lloyd added 11 and Kirk Brown contributed 10.

Garcia and El Camino almost pulled the game out in the waning moments. Bob Gravett gave Valley a 73-69 lead with 15 seconds left when he plunked in two charity tosses, but Garcia raced back down the court to hit an outside jumper with 11 seconds left and cut the margin to 73-71.

AS VALLEY came down the court, El Camino committed a foul but the Monarch shooter missed and ECC came down with the rebound. A last second shot by Canfield hit the front rim and Valley had the victory.

It was the third time this season El Camino has dropped a tight decision when a last-second shot failed to connect.



TWISTING SCORER . . . Torrance High's Walt Hale drives in for a two-point layup Friday in the opening game of the Pioneer League campaign while Aviation's Gary Dinnel futility wches. Hale wound up with 15 points while Dinnel canned 27 to lead a 78-55 Aviation triumph. (Herald Photo)