

# North Seeks City Cage Title

TORRANCE HERALD

## Sports

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### SECOND VICTORY

## West Stuns Torrance Five To Stay in League Lead

Magnificent team play triggered West High to a 65-60 win over crosstown cage rival Torrance High Friday night and left the Warriors tied with Aviation for first place in the Pioneer League.

All five starters finished in double figures for West as the Warriors notched their second straight circuit win without a defeat and earned their first victory in three tries against Torrance.

Hot-gunning forward Richard Hall topped West with 21 points and was instrumental in holding off a last-inmuted Tartar surge that threatened to reverse the decision.

Five points behind going into the last stanza, Torrance finally came alive with two minutes remaining to play and closed the West lead to two markers. Clutch lay-ups by Hall and guard Dan Thomas plus two key free throws by John Marsden put the game out of reach.

**THOMAS FINISHED** with 13 markers while Terry Febles added 11 and John Cochran and Marsden contributed 10 digits each.

Cochran turned in one of his finest games ever although he played only one half. In the first two quarters, the 6-2 center hauled down 16 rebounds and stuffed in 10 points. Moments before intermission Cochran suffered a cut eye and sat out the rest of the game.

Three Tartars hit in double figures. Mike Hatter, Walt Hale and Bob Brennan all collected 15 points in a vain effort to pull the game out. Brennan

picked up 13 markers in the second half.

**RESERVE** Dan Gala was another key factor in the West upset. Gala, replacing Cochran, hauled down 12 rebounds.

It was Torrance's second consecutive league defeat and the third straight loss for the Tartars. League favorite Aviation easily handled THS in the

circuit opener and North picked up a non-loop win over the Tartars on Tuesday.

West is off to a brilliant start after a poor pre-league showing. The Warriors failed to win a game until the circuit campaign got underway and then the Tribe finally jelled, picking off El Segundo in a first-round contest.

## Recreation Team Hits 114 Points

Phenomenally high-scoring Tolson-Vaughn Realty remained on top of the Thursday Open League the past week with a 114-39 win over Magnavox Research Laboratory in Torrance Recreation Department cage play.

Seven men wound up in double figures for Tolson-Vaughn. Joe Moeller topped the winners with 22 points, backed up by Ernie Woods (17), Noel Smith (17), Jerry Matthews (15), Warren Peterson (12) manager Avery Bryant (10) and Dan Karavas (10).

**MARSHALL YOUNG** (13) and Arvol Gentry (12) attempted to keep Magnavox in the game.

Mitch Malpee plunked in 13 points while Rick Acres and Jim Smith added 11 each to pace El Camino Real Realty to a 54-37 win over the Hughes Basket Bombers. Bob Halberg led the losers with 12 digits. The South High Beavers

notched a 59-31 win over the Llama Room as Sam Edwards poured in 14 points, Lowell Greenberg added 13, George Rangitsen contributed 12. Frosty White was high for the Llama Room with 14 points.

In Industrial League play, the Jack Kramer Club managed a 45-36 triumph over Harvey Aluminum. High point men for the winners were Rex Hughes with 13, Russ Bierly with 12 and Avery Bryant with 10. Harrison Washington led Harvey Aluminum with 13 markers.

It took a double overtime for AiResearch to capture a 60-57 duke over Foods Co. AiResearch won on the efforts of Mike Novikoff (16), Gary Bechtel (12), Henry Blackman (10) and Ray Glenn (10).

Foods Co. manager Gary Little topped his club with 19 points while Joe Nelson added 16 and Bill McWallen contributed 12.

## Culver Loses To NHS

North High broke open a tight Sky League cage contest in the opening minutes of the final period Friday night and went on to register a 60-50 triumph over Culver City.

Reeling off nine consecutive points to start off the fourth quarter, North broke Culver City's back and remained in front of the Sky League pack.

Only 30 seconds before the end of the third period, Culver City edged in front of North by 2 points, but Dave Hempel and Mike Gratzke hit quick buckets to push the Saxons in front, 42-40.

**BEFORE** the Centaurs could rally, North had pushed its margin to 51-42 and put the game out of reach.

Guard Terry Tierney continued his assault on enemy goals with a 23-point performance for North that topped all scorers. Gratzke wound up with 14 points and 6-5 center Al Lepper contributed 10 more.

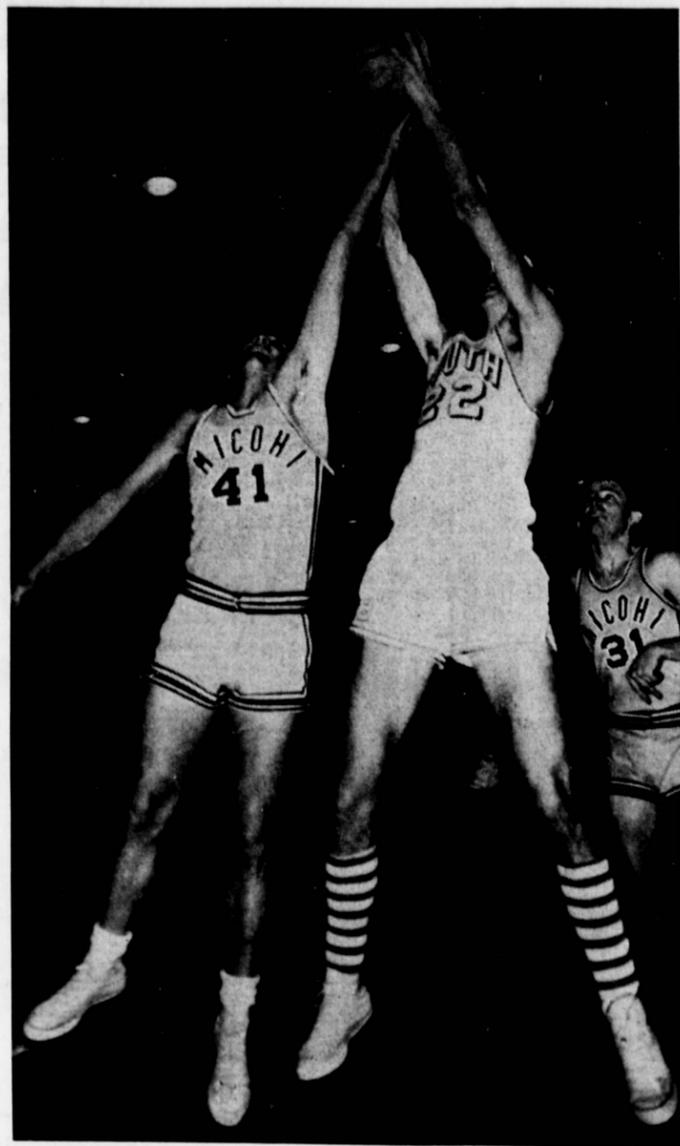
North jumped out to a 19-11 lead against the hosting Centaurs but owned only a 29-25 bulge at intermission. In the third stanza, Culver narrowed the gap even more, out-scoring the Saxons, 15-13.

**CULVER'S** two big men, 6-9 Jeff Eckmier and 6-6 Mike Plane, handled most of the scoring for the losers. Eckmier wound up with 14 points and Plane collected 11.

The game had been billed as a dual between Eckmier and Plane and North's Lepper and 6-8 Ron Taylor. Taylor, who was out one day the past week with the flu, managed only four points.

Saxon mentor Skip Enger felt Culver City had definitely gotten the better of the battle of the big boys.

Victory led North tied with Leuzinger for the Sky League lead after two games. Previously, Culver City had shared a part of the lead.



**BATTLE OF GIANTS . . .** South High center John Thomas and Jim Tritt of Mira Costa fight for a rebound in the closing minutes of Friday's Bay League war. Micohi picked up a 61-41 triumph as the Spartans recorded their worst performance of the year. Thomas wound up with 9 points and pulled down 7 rebounds in the first half. (Herald Photo)

## South To Host Saxons

Cross-town rivals North and South high schools will meet head-on Tuesday at 3 p.m. in the SHS gymnasium to decide the City basketball championship.

North, with one-sided wins over Torrance and West to its credit, will be a one-sided favorite to cop the crown. South has beaten West twice and split with Torrance in a pair of games.

South will depend on 6-3 forward Don Denson, who carries a 20-plus scoring average, and 6-5 sophomore center Steve Kuckenbecker. Two big men, 6-8 Ron Taylor and 6-5 Al Lepper, plus 5-8 guard Terry Tierney will shoulder the North burden.

**TORRANCE** will attempt to snap a three-game losing streak on Tuesday against Hawthorne in a non-league contest. The Tartars have lost consecutive games to Aviation, North and West.

The Tartars can win as they proved in the consolation round of the tough Compton Tournament where they picked up three straight victories and the title.

High-riding West High, following two straight Pioneer League triumphs, will go against Culver City on Tuesday in a non-circuit engagement on the Centaur court. Culver won the Pioneer championship last season but has switched to the rougher Sky League this season.

The Centaurs gave North all the basketball it wanted Friday night before dropping a 60-50 decision. Jeff Eckmier, at 6-9, and Mike Plane, at 6-6, will pace Culver. West will counter with 6-2 center John Cocgran and sometimes deadly Richard Hall.

**WEST MENTOR** Tom Sutherland has indicated he may go much of the way with his second string in an effort to give them valuable game experience.

## Spartans Play Worst Game In Loss to Micohi Quintet

What a difference a week makes in the performance of South High's casaba squad.

Last week the Spartans turned in their most impressive game of the year in a 71-70 loss to Redondo. Friday night South came up with its poorest effort of the season as Mira Costa rambled to a 61-41 Bay League triumph.

It was just not South's night. Everything went wrong from the officiating to foul shooting. Aggressive Spartan sophomore center Steve Kuckenbecker exited in the third quarter as did invaluable playmaker Byron Schweigert.

**EVEN USUALLY** hot-shooting Don Denson was way off target. Denson carried a 25-point average into the game but managed only 7 points. The 6-3 forward usually connects at a 75 per cent clip on free throws, but he hit on only 1 of 5 against Micohi.

South actually held a 9-8 lead after the first quarter, but by half-time the high-powered Mustangs had compiled a 25-15 lead. The Spartans cut the Micohi bulge to 7 midway through the third quarter before foul trouble hit.

With Schweigert and Kuckenbecker out, Mira Costa quickly pushed its lead to 41-23 after three quarters.

It was late in the final quarter before South could mount any kind of offensive punch and center John Thomas was it. Thomas shoved 7 of his 9 points through in the closing minutes.

Thomas and Dave Kuckenbecker were high men for South with 9 points each. In contrast three Mustangs wound up in double figures, led by 15 points from Jeff White. Highly-touted Neville Saner collected 14 markers and Jim McLaughlin picked up 12 digits.

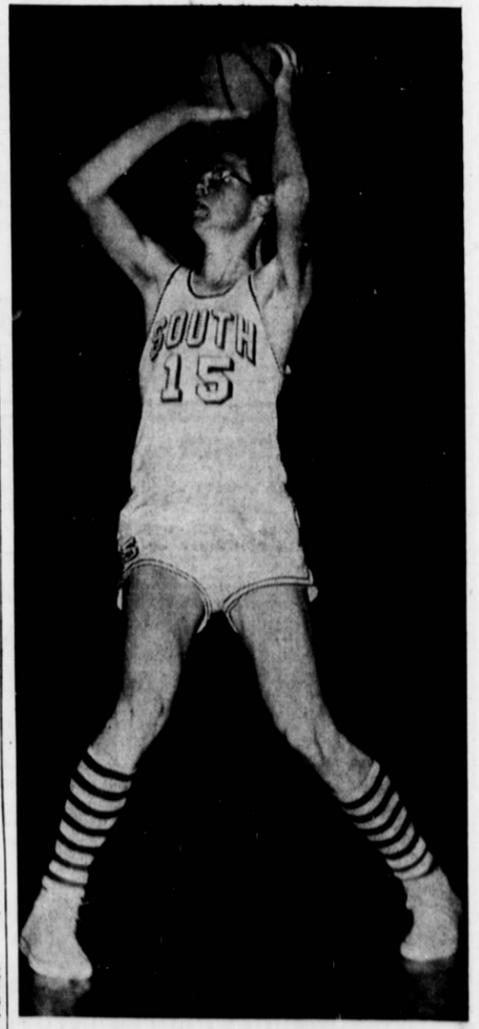
Ranked as the Bay League's finest player, Saner was limited to four points in the first half under the guarding of Steve Kuckenbecker. Not until the South sophomore fouled out did Saner get going.

Comparing Mira Costa to Redondo, Spartan coach Jim Hanny said, "Micohi is not as strong. They did not have the balanced scoring and they may be weaker on the boards."

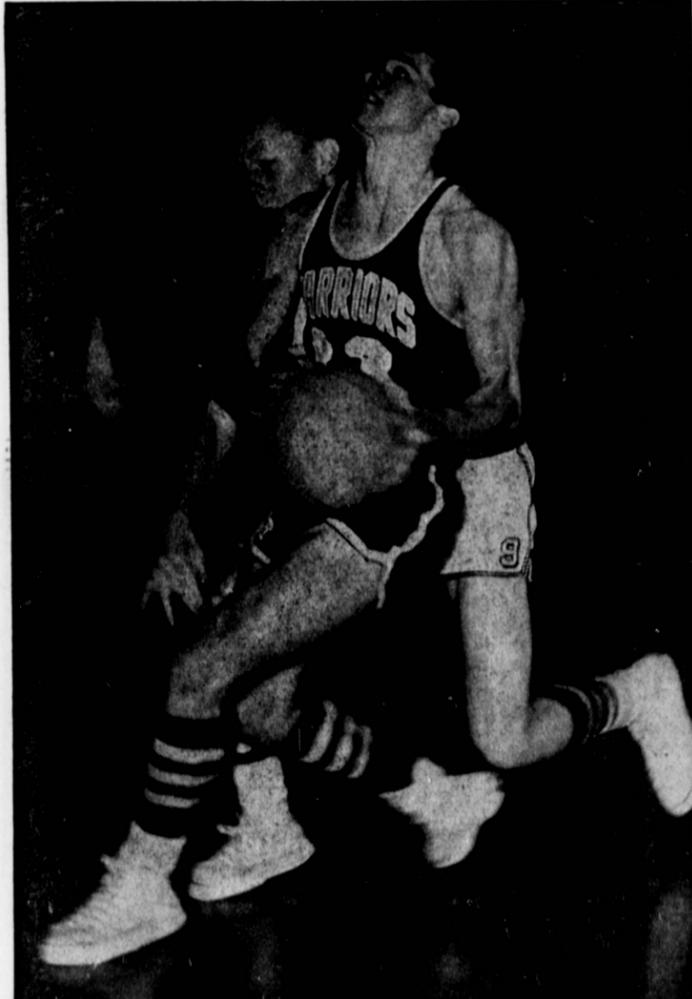
**"OUR BOYS** are not discouraged. We think that we will beat Mira Costa when we play them at our place in the second round," Hanny said.

South still has its sights set on the league title. "We feel we can come back and win eight in a row," Hanny commented.

Hanny contributed the loss to Denson's off-night. "We just cannot afford to lose his 25 points," he said.



**AWKWARD SHOOTER . . .** High-scoring forward Don Denson will lead South High in search of the Torrance basketball championship Tuesday at 3 p.m. against North High. Denson, who carries a 20-plus average, managed only 7 points Friday night as Mira Costa picked up a 61-41 triumph over the Spartans. North, undefeated in two Sky League games, will be favored to win the cross-town engagement. (Herald Photo)



**ROUGH GOING . . .** Torrance High's Walt Hale fouls Richard Hall of West High Friday night in the opening quarter of a Pioneer League encounter. Hall plunked in 21 points as West won its second straight contest to remain tied for the league lead. The defeat was the second circuit loss for the Tartars and all but knocked them out of the title picture although the campaign is just two week old. (Herald Photo by Jerry Reynolds)

### LOSSES CONTINUE

## Cerritos Hands El Camino Third Conference Defeat

Luckless El Camino College absorbed its third straight Metropolitan Conference basketball defeat Friday night as powerful Cerritos treated the home folks to a 78-60 triumph.

El Camino, sticking with its fast break instead of switching to an anticipated slow-down game, now resides in the conference cellar with a 0-3 slate while Cerritos remains on top of the loop.

**THE CONTEST** was close in the first half and Camino actually wangled a 24-20 lead before Gary McCoy and Les Powell put Cerritos ahead to stay by clinking for six straight points.

At intermission, Camino trailed, 30-27. Both quintets were remarkably cold in the opening minutes as El Camino managed to hit on 2 of 19 shots and Cerritos bucketed only 2 of 21 attempts.

Any Camino hopes of any upset win came to an abrupt halt early in the second half when McCoy broke the game wide open with three straight outside shots.

Powell led Cerritos with 15 points while McCoy tallied 14, Joe Jennun added 12 and Ray Wilson added 11. Harvey Shepherd and Chuck Hagen each deposited 9 points for the well-balanced Falcons. Jim Brennan, clicking on 10

of 13 free throws, led El Camino with 16 markers. Kirk Brown, a former El Segundo High cager, was the only other Warrior to hit in double figures, pumping in 11 points.

**THE CONTEST** became a little wild in the second half and Cerritos' Shepherd was removed from the game for trying to deck Lloyd.

In an attempt to take advantage of his talented supply of guards, Camino coach George Stanich was expected to install a pattern-offense designed to slow down the game and give his little men a chance to work in for easy layups.