

Aviation Rips West in Pioneer Showdown

Non-League Cage Tilts on Tap



TAKING A LOOK . . . Guard Dan Thomas fakes a shot and prepares to pass off for West High Friday night against Pioneer League-leading Aviation. A masterful ball handler and dribbler, Thomas canned 11 points but was unable to break Aviation's 3-2 zone defense that limited the Warriors to 39 points and gave West only 3 inside shots.

Warrior Dreams Tarnish

West High's Pioneer League title hopes received a severe setback Friday night as Aviation snared an impressive 60-39 triumph over the previously unbeaten Warriors in a first-round casaba showdown.

Both quintets were unbeaten in league action prior to the contest, but after the first quarter, there was little doubt that West would not long remain untrammelled.

Four men hit in double figures for Aviation and the Falcons threw up a tough 3-2 zone defense that cut the West win streak at three games.

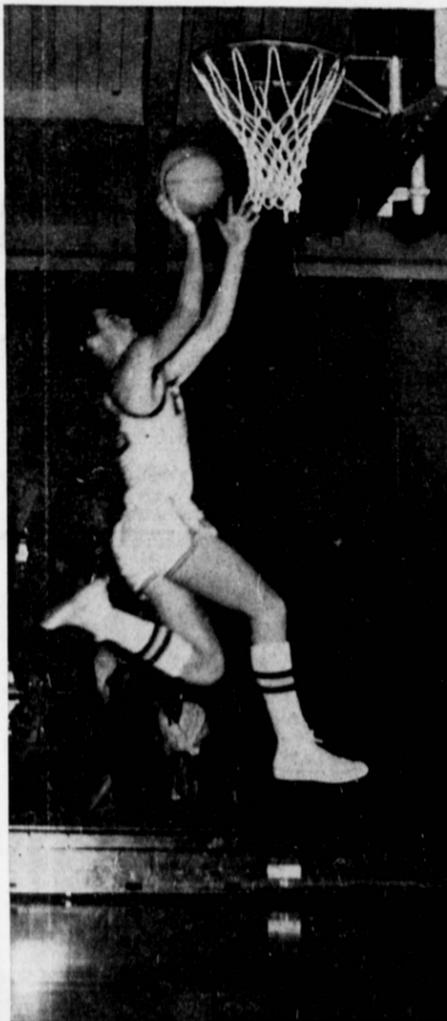
GARY DINNEL, possibly the Pioneer League's best player, topped all scorers with 17 points and received plenty of support from Roy Hamey, Steve Willis and Dennis Hayden, who contributed 11 markers each.

West was unable to penetrate the Aviation zone and the Warriors were allowed only three offensive lay-ins. All of the other Redskin shots came from the outside.

Sometimes deadly Richard Hall, who owns a season high of 26 points, connected for 14 markers to top West. Uncanny guard Dan Thomas, with 11 points, offered Hall his only scoring support.

CENTER JOHN Cochran, at 6-2, the Warriors' only rebounding hope, picked up four fouls early in the third quarter and sat out most of the second half. Cochran hauled down 14 rebounds before intermission against the taller Falcons.

West went with its usual man-to-man defense, but Aviation cut it apart with sharp passing and scored repeatedly on cripple shots.



ALL ALONE . . . West High guard John Marsden cruises up for an easy lay-in Friday night against Aviation—but misses. It was the story of West's night in the Pioneer League showdown as the Falcons romped to a 60-39 win. Marsden, termed by coach Tom Sutherland as the league's top defensive player, has made a habit of stealing enemy passes and racing in for cripple shots. (Herald Photo)



6 GREGG PETERSON, Sports Editor JANUARY 26, 1964

South Nudges Palos Verdes In Double Overtime, 66-65

Sophomore sensation Steve Kuckenbecker almost single-handedly carried South High to its first Bay League basketball win of the year Friday night.

Kuckenbecker, a 6-5 center, carded 17 points, controlled the boards and sank several "must" buckets as South nudged Palos Verdes, 66-65, in a double overtime.

Only 10 seconds remained in regulation play and South trailed 56-53 when Kuckenbecker took the matter in hand. He plunked in a short shot

from the key to narrow the count to 56-55 and was fouled on the play.

With the outcome depending on a single charity toss, Kuckenbecker sank his third straight penalty effort of the night and sent the game into overtime.

In the first overtime, Steve's older brother, Dave, stole the ball and raced in for two points and John Thomas hit on a short jumper as South matched four Palos Verdes points.

Steve French canned a short jumper, and Steve Kuckenbecker drove down the key and hit a floating lay-up and then sank two free throws to give South the narrow upset.

South played almost all of the last half under a severe handicap. Forward Don Denson, the league's top scorer with a 20-point average, fouled out with 4:50 left in the third stanza.

Prior to that, Denson canned 19 points and was on his way to his second 40-plus point effort of the year. "It was the best game Don has played," Spartan mentor Jim Hanny said.

Defense Secures NHS Win

A tremendous third-quarter defensive surge sent North High hustling to a 62-43 casaba win over visiting Beverly Hills Friday night and left the Saxons tied with Leuzinger for the Sky League lead.

Beverly Hills came into town with definite ideas of an upset, and at halftime the Normans trailed by only 6 points, but after the third period North held a 47-30 bulge.

North likes to run, and so Beverly Hills installed a slow, pattern-type offense, passing and passing and looking for the good shot.

THE TACTIC was effective in the first half against a 1-3-1 north zone, but in the third period the Saxons switched into a man-to-man defense and Beverly was limited to 5 points.

Mike Gratzke, coming out of a short slump, pumped in 22 points to out-duel Beverly's highly-touted forward Warren Tetley for high-point honors.

Tetley finished with 18 points, but was limited to one free throw in the third period by Terry Tierney when North went to its man-to-man.

Saxon center Al Lepper played a "beautiful game" according to his coach Skip Enger, and slipped in 19 points in addition to controlling the boards.

NORTH'S other big man, 6-8 junior Ron Taylor, picked up three quick fouls in the opening quarter, sat out most of the game, and contributed only four points.

Beverly Hills owned a 15-10 deficit after the first quarter and might have caught up before intermission if it had not been for Gratzke. In the second quarter Gratzke popped 10 points through, most of them coming from the corner.

Dodger Night Ducats Ready

Tickets remain on sale today for the Dodger Appreciation night on Friday, Jan. 31 at the Jump 'n' Jack Restaurant in Torrance.

Ducats, which run \$5 and include a meat or fish dinner, are available from the Torrance Chamber of Commerce and the Jump 'n' Jack Restaurant.

The dinner, which will begin at 7:30 p.m., will feature Dodger catcher John Roseboro, announcer Jerry Doggett, trainer Wayne Anderson of Torrance and vice president Red Patterson.

Fouls troubled South throughout the game, and Byron Schweigert and both Kuckenbeckers were saddled with four personals when the game ended. Starter Steve Boggs fouled out in the fourth period.

Palos Verdes actually lost the game because of its inability to collect on charity throws. South hit on 22 of 28 free throws while the Sea Kings connected on only 19 of 33 attempts.

Thomas, a regular starter who has been off-beam recently, came off the bench in the second period to spark South. Thomas hit on six straight free throws and dumped in a bucket to pave the way for a 14-point performance.

The game was close all the way. South held a 15-14 first period lead but trailed 32-31 at halftime. The Spartans almost broke the game open in the third stanza and held a 39-34 lead when Denson made his forced exodus.

Torrance to Meet Olymps Tuesday

Three non-league games are on tap Tuesday afternoon for high school basketball aficionados.

In the premier contest, Torrance High will put a one-game winning streak on the block against Sky League-leading Leuzinger on the Olympian court at 3 p.m.

"We can not match them on the boards, so we will run with them," Tartar coach Will Boerger says. The game should develop into a fast, high-scoring contest if Boerger's plan goes into effect.

TORRANCE is warming up for Friday's meeting with Lennox, the surprise Pioneer League quintet that hung a one-sided defeat on defending CIF "AA" division champ El Segundo.

North High will tune-up for Friday's Sky League showdown with Leuzinger by testing a weak Hawthorne squad Tuesday afternoon on the Cougar floor.

Hawthorne is a young club that is experiencing little success and North coach Skip Enger hopes he will get a chance to give his substitutes some playing time.

WEST HIGH will attempt to bounce back from a disappointing loss to Aviation against Camino Real League foe St. Bernards on Tuesday at Loyola University.

The Warriors will be seeking their fourth win in five attempts.

El Camino College, and South and Bishop Montgomery will draw byes. Camino will get back in action Friday against East Los Angeles while South will tangle with Santa Monica on the same date. Montgomery will again take a day off.

Camino Earns Metro Victory Over 'Gades

Triggered by four high-scoring performances, El Camino College ripped Bakersfield, 81-73, Friday night to pick up its second straight Metropolitan Conference cage win after four losses.

Clark Canfield continued his hot-shooting spree against the visiting Renegades, plunking in 26 points to top El Camino and lead all scorers.

Former Aviation star Jim Lloyd came through with his finest performance of the year, flipping in 22 markers and controlling the offensive boards with 24 rebounds.

Ex-Torrance High great Jim Brennan contributed 16 markers and quickly-improving guard Kirk Borwn added 14 more digits.

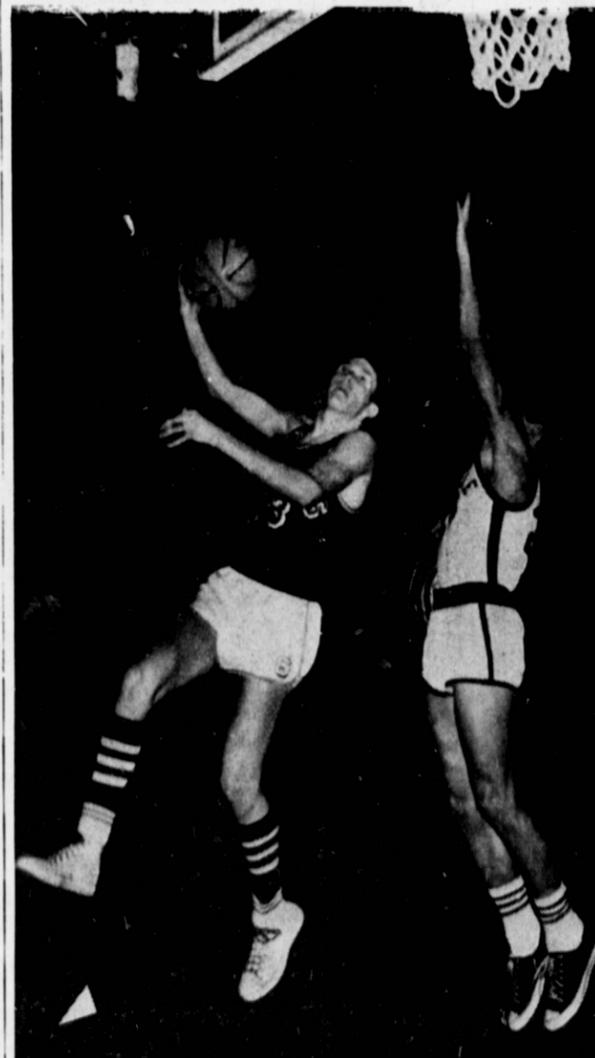
The fifth member of Camino's starting team, 5-8 guard Bob Garcia, was taken to the hospital for stitches under his eye after a tussle under the bucket.

Camino raced into a 46-40 halftime lead, mostly on the basis of Canfield's 7 for 7 gunning from the floor.

The game was close at the outset until Camino broke into a 23-16 lead. Previously the score had been tied five times.

WIN FINALLY COMES

Torrance Outlasts Lawndale



Three clutch free throws by Bob Brennan in the final two minutes of play Friday night helped Torrance stave off a late Lawndale rally and propelled the Tartars to a 54-50 Pioneer League cage triumph.

Brennan, a 5-10 guard who finished with 11 points for the evening, connected on 3 of 4 charity attempts in the final quarter to discourage the upset-minded Cardinals.

Torrance held a seven-point lead as the final quarter got underway, but deadly outside shooting and a full-court press by Lawndale cut the Tartar margin to four with slightly more than two minutes remaining.

Then Brennan took over, and his three points, a key charity toss by 6-5 center Jim Davies and a last-second tip-in by Walt Hale preserved Torrance's first league win of the year.

Lawndale had trouble with the full-court Tartar press throughout the game, but managed to stay close with deadly outside shooting. Approximately 60 per cent of the Cardinal shots came from outside.

Hale wound up as the top Torrance gunner with 13 points and tied Lawndale's Bob Duncan for game scoring honors. Duncan, who has collected over 20 points in his last two starts, was limited to three buckets Friday night.

Joining Hale in the double-figure column for Torrance were Mike Hatter with 12 points and Bob Romero and Brennan with 11 digits each.

"We made a lot of mistakes, but it was encouraging to see Romero climb back to double figures after two bad games," Tartar mentor Will Boerger commented.

Boerger also felt that Davies, a junior with good potential, turned in one of his better games. The South Carolina transfer popped in three points and hauled down six rebounds.

The game was a see-saw affair from start to finish. Torrance picked up a 15-7 lead after one quarter, but by halftime Lawndale cut the margin to 26-24.

Torrance pulled into a 41-34 lead after the third quarter before the Cardinals began their too-late comeback.

OVER AND IN . . . Forward Walt Hale hooks over a Lawndale defender Friday night to help Torrance secure a 54-50 Pioneer League triumph. Hale finished with 13 points, tops for the Tartars, and was a key figure in leading Torrance to its first circuit win in three attempts. (Herald Photo)