

Torrance to Host Little League Convocation

One thousand Little League baseball representatives from the Los Angeles and Orange County area will convene in Torrance on Wednesday for a Jubilee Convocation that will commemorate the 25th anniversary of Little League in the United States.

A full day's program has been outlined by chairman John Schnepf for the representatives of leagues from Districts 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 36, 37, 38 and 46.

The meeting will be a part of a series of Jubilee Convocations to be held throughout the United States, Canada and Mexico during February and March.

Albert E. Houghton, western region director and International Tournament Director for Little League, will be the principal speaker Wednesday night at Torrance High School during the main portion of the convocation.

Houghton who will also speak at convocations at

Citrus Junior College and Granda Hills next week, will review the first quarter century of the Little League program and relate goals for the future.

Joining Houghton on the speaker's lectern will be Dr. Ernest Vandeweghe, child psychologist and team physician for the Los Angeles Lakers. Dr. Vandeweghe has authored several books on youngsters in athletics.

The convocation will begin at 9:30 a.m. Wednesday with a breakfast for the Little League Women's Auxiliary at the International House of Pancakes on Hawthorne Avenue, where Houghton will also speak.

At 12:30 p.m., administrators and their assistants from the 10 participating districts will meet for lunch at the Jump 'n' Jack Restaurant. Following the luncheon, a business meeting will be held to discuss policies for the coming year.

Late Wednesday afternoon, the district adminis-

trators will tour Torrance's Little League fields.

The tour will be conducted as part of the city's bid to obtain the Western Regional Playoffs in August of this year.

Torrance's bid for the playoffs is being heavily weighed, according to Schnepf, who serves as administrator for District 27. Teams from the 11 Western States would compete in the regionals and Schnepf feels the tournament would lure 2,500 people into Torrance. In the past two years, the regionals have been held in San Francisco and Vancouver.

Should Torrance host the regionals, the tournament would be held at Garrett Field, on Van Ness Avenue and 190th Street. Schnepf, who has criss-crossed the United States in his work with the Little League, believes the Garrett Park playing diamond is one of the nation's finest.

In its 25 years of existence, Little League baseball has compiled an enrollment of 6,000 leagues and is represented in 26 nations. The first league was composed of 54 youngsters in Williamsport, Pa., in 1939, and today the program has more than one and a quarter million participants.

Each year Williamsport hosts the Little League World Series, which was televised nationally last year by the American Broadcasting Co. on its "Wide World of Sports."

Schnepf says that during the four weeks of Little League playoffs, more baseball is played than has been played by Major League teams during the past 13 years. He also says that more Little League games are played each year than have been played by professional teams since the sport began.

West Seeks Pioneer Surprise

Warriors to Host League-Leading Aviation Quintet

Off-beaten West High will assume the role of spoiler tomorrow at 8 p.m. in the Torrance High gymnasium when Aviation brings its perfect Pioneer League basketball record to town.

Following Tuesday's loss to Torrance, West is all but eliminated from second place in the league, but the Warriors still desire to make life rough on Aviation.

Everything, including luck, has been with Aviation this season as the Falcons have run up seven straight league wins. The circuit leaders own three wins by a total of five points.

WHEN THE two quintets met in the first round, both were unbeaten, but Aviation threw up a tight zone defense and sent West spinning to its first loop defeat.

North High will be out to avoid an upset tomorrow night against hosting Beverly Hills. The Normans, always tough at home, have chalked up consecutive upset wins over Culver City and Leuzinger.

The Saxons need only a victory over Beverly to clinch at least a tie for the Sky League crown. Leuzinger, following Tuesday's loss to Beverly, is now two games behind.

South High will attempt to rebound from two straight Bay League defeats tomorrow when the Spartans visit Palos Verdes for an 8 p.m. clash.

Last time the two clubs met, it took a double overtime before South was able to pull out a one-point victory.

Much of South's victory hopes rest with the return of 6-5 sophomore Steve Kuckenbecker who was absent with the flu on Tuesday when the Spartans dropped a 60-53 decision to Mira Costa.

Don Denson, the Southland's leading scorer with a 22.86 average, proved he is fully recovered from the flu against Micohi. Denson canned 31 points, 18 in the last quarter, to lead a South resurgence.

Lawndale is still seeking a revenge win over Torrance High, and the Cardinals will get their second chance of the year tomorrow night on their own court.

TORRANCE managed only a 54-50 win when the two squads met in first round action, but since then Tartar coach Will Boerger has come up with dependable scorers in Walt Hale, Mike Hatter and Bob Brennan.

Bishop Montgomery will continue its bid for a first division Camino Real League berth at 8 p.m. tomorrow against St. John Vianney. Early in the year Knight mentor Roger Folsom felt his club could win the circuit crown, but he will now be happy with a high finish.

South Rally Fails To Topple Micohi

Torrid-shooting Don Denson continued his onslaught on enemy buckets Tuesday night, but it was not enough to prevent South High from absorbing a 60-53 Bay League cage defeat from unbeaten Mira Costa.

Denson, the Southland's top scorer, finished with 31 points, almost 10 above his season average, as South came roaring back from a 17-point deficit to almost catch the league-leading Mustangs.

The Spartans trailed 44-27 going into the final period before Denson gained a hot hand. The senior South forward hit on eight free throws and five baskets to contribute 18 points during the final stanza.

Lack of balance ruined the Spartans. Guard Byron Schweigert, with 12 markers, was the only South cager besides Den-

son to hit in double figures. After intermission, Denson and Schweigert teamed for 30 of South's 33 points.

Sophomore Jeff White, dead-end from the outside in the first half, canned 18 points to top Mira Costa. White was backed up by Neville Saner's 12 markers and substitute Bob Wright's 11 digits.

Mira Costa almost turned the game into a rout before South coach Jim Hanny sent his club into a half-court press during the fourth quarter. Earlier, the Spartans had held the ball in a partially successful attempt to slow down Micohi's fast break.

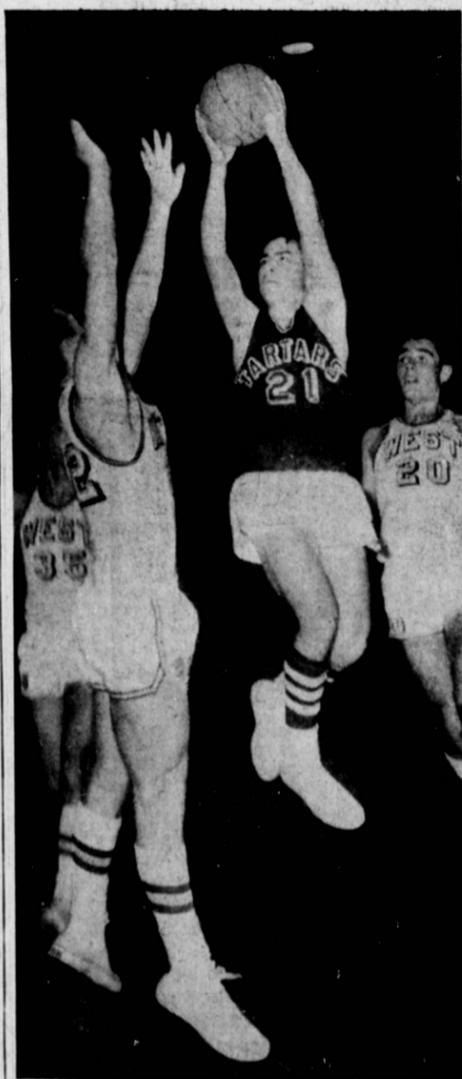
Missing from South's starting five was 6-5 sophomore Steve Kuckenbecker, who carries a 14.67 league average. Kuckenbecker was out with the flu.



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GREGG PETERSON, Sports Editor

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TARTAR GUNNER . . . Torrance High guard Bob Romero unleashes a basket-bound shot Tuesday night against West High despite the objections of John Marsden (12) as Dan Gala (35) and John Cochran (20) watch. Torrance reversed an early-season loss to West with a 55-46 Pioneer League victory over its cross-town rival. (Herald Photo)

Torrance Overhauls West Five

Torrance and West high schools have met only four times on the basketball court, and already a great cross-town cage rivalry is blooming.

Victory number three in the short series came to Torrance Tuesday night, but the Tartars were forced to come back from a 29-24 halftime deficit to pull out the win.

Three technical fouls, all late in the contest, marred the Tartar win.

DEPENDABLE Mike Hatter plunked in all 19 of his points in the second half to spark the THS rally. Hatter received 14 points worth of help from Bob Brennan and 11 more from Walt Hale as the Tartars avenged an early season Pioneer League loss to West.

The win moved Torrance into a tie with West and Lawndale for third place in the circuit. All three schools own 3-4 records. Aviation remains atop the league with a 7-0 mark with El Segundo in second at 4-3. Lennox is in the cellar with a 2-5 slate.

Guard Dan Thomas and forward Rich Hall, bucketing 12 points each, kept West in charge most of the game.

AFTER ONE QUARTER of play, the count was knotted at 15-15, but by intermission, West had forged into a 29-24 lead. The edge was short-lived, however, as Torrance came up with 17 points in the third period and took a 41-36 lead into the closing quarter.

With less than three minutes left to play, West cut the Torrance edge to four points, at 43-39. But that was as close as the Warriors could come as Torrance connected on easy lay-ins and foul shots to cinch the win.

North Whips Culver To Hold Loop Lead

Unstoppable North High continued its drive toward a Sky League title Tuesday night with a lopsided 74-57 triumph over Culver City.

A 46-point first half paved the way for North's sixth consecutive league victory without a defeat. The win, coupled with Leuzinger's surprise loss to Beverly Hills, gives North a two-game bulge.

Forward Mike Gratzke and guard Terry Tierney, complimenting North's vaunted big men, sank 21 points each to top all scorers.

TIERNEY WENT WILD in the opening quarter and deposited 11 markers through the mesh as North ran up a quick 21-15 lead. Gratzke was more consistent, continuing his 48 per cent shooting average from the floor.

Center Al Lepper, a 6-5 senior, pumped in 14 points while his running mate, Ron Taylor, bucketed 10 more. Eleven of Lepper's points came in the second period when North rushed to a 46-32 lead.

At one stage in the second quarter, North held a 22-point

edge before coach Skip Enger went to his bench and Culver City managed to cut the spread.

CULVER'S big men, 6-8 center Jeff Eckmier and 6-6 forward Mike Plane, enjoyed their usual high-scoring night. Eckmier and Plane both came through with 18 points.

North's hot-shooting performance left the Saxons the only quintet in the Sky League with four men averaging in double figures.

Tierney is now gunning at a 17.3 rate while Gratzke is connecting at a 16.71 clip. Lepper is hitting at 15.57 per cent while Taylor continues at a 10.00 pace.

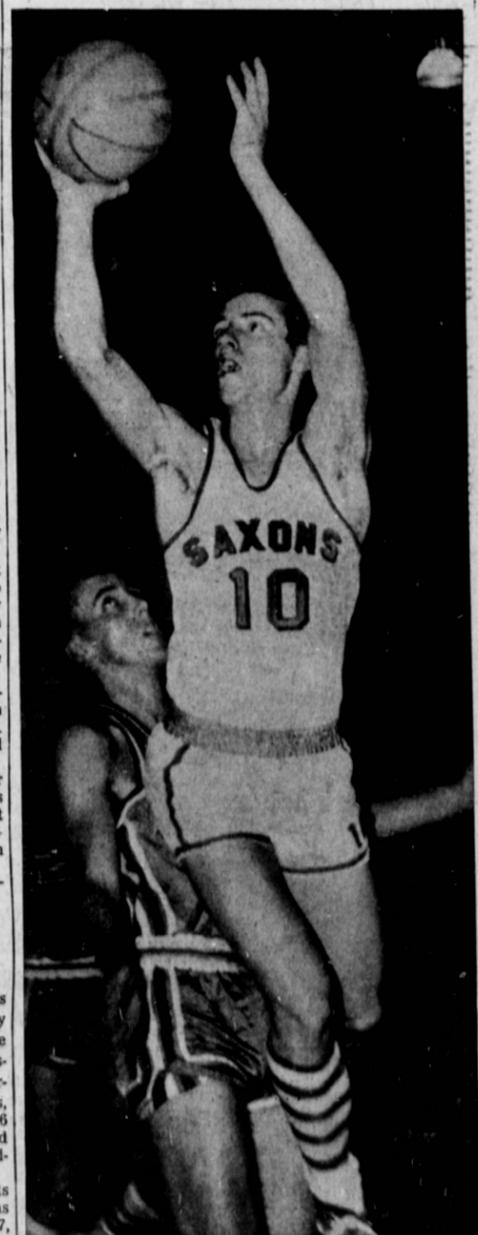
Leuzinger's loss to Beverly Hills all but clinched the league crown for North. The Olympians were considered the only hurdle in North's way, but they now have two losses compared to none for the Saxons.

REMAINING IN North's path are Beverly Hills on Friday, Leuzinger and Inglewood. The Saxons already boast easy wins over all three quintets and will draw Leuzinger, the toughest club, at home.

Despite his team's two-game lead, Enger does not anticipate a letdown in the final contests.

Only if Lepper or Taylor get in foul trouble will the Saxons be in danger of losing their big spread. Enger's strength lies with his starting five, and when either big man is handicapped by personals, Sky League teams have a good crack at an upset.

Should North lose, it would surely be an upset. The Saxons have lost twice to Bay League powerhouse Redondo, once to Mira Costa, Ventura and Long Beach Poly. Micohi is currently atop the Bay League while Poly is the top-rated quintet in the CIF.



SIGNAL-CALLER . . . Guard Dennis Irelan uncorks a two-pointer for North High in a recent Sky League encounter. Irelan, the lowest scorer on the Saxon's starting five, is credited by coach Skip Enger with being the "team quarterback" and guiding the smooth-flowing North offense. (Herald Photo)

King's Men Capture Two Wins

Twin 21-point performances by Pat Calvey and Don Peterson plus a 14-digit effort by Bob Huber paved the way for the King's Men to snare a 63-33 win over Redondo First Baptist in recent Area Church League cage play.

Gerald Colon, with 13 points, was top scorer for Redondo.

The King's Men also picked up a 56-55 win over the Waleria Assembly of God as Huber contributed 21 points while Calvey and Peterson added 11. Ronald Goble led the losers with 17 markers while manager Tom Tapp totaled 13. Ronald Drake added 12 and Russell Drake deposited 11.

Resurrection Lutheran, the league's top squad with a 5-1 mark, snared a 48-45 win over Torrance First Baptist of Bob charity shots in the last five seconds.

Newcomb wound up with 12 points while manager Dick Jensen topped the winners with 15. Fred Wilson with 15 markers and Howard Taylor with 12 led Torrance.

EIGHT MEN hit in the scoring columns for Resurrection Lutheran in a 41-28 victory over Redondo First Baptist. Dan Kerberg flipped in 15 points for Redondo.

Russell Drake (14), Ronald Goble (13), manager Tom Tapp (11) and Ronald Drake (10) led

the Waleria Assembly of God to a 56-36 decision over Torrance First Lutheran. Danny George plunked in 18 markers for Torrance.

Torrance First Baptist picked up a 59-30 triumph over the Torrance Lutheran quintet. Howard Taylor topped the winners with 14 digits while Paul Plunkett added 10. Danny George and manager Jim Batema tallied 12 each for the losers.

In Tuesday Open League action, Howard Taylor canned 10 points and led Party House in a 37-34 victory over TRW Semi-Conductors.

The evenly-balanced Wreck-Aides, with 10 men scoring,

earned a 47-40 duke over Parker Aircraft. Gary Nix's 15 points was high for the Wreck-Aides while Jack Hadley with 20 markers and Ron Bora with 10 led Parker.

Erwin Haltiner dropped in 18 points and Fred Hoopes added 16 more as Redondo Ward gained a 44-35 exhibition win over the Harbor Hornets. Ed Turner slipped in 15 points for the Hornets.

Tolson-Vaughn Realty continued its victory string in Thursday Open League play with a 66-39 win over the Hughes Basket Bombers. Noel Smith (13), Jerry Mathews (13), Avery Bryant (12), and Dan Karavass (10) led the winners.

Gary Bunn, with 11 points, was high-point man for Hughes.

With Jim Smith (15), Jack Cameron (14), Rich Aires (12) and manager John Brame (10) leading the way, the El Camino Real Realty Padres collected a 64-46 decision over the South High Teachers. Jim Dougherty was high for South with 14 markers while George Rangiden and manager Arthur McKarms banged in 10 each.

The Lama Room snared a 57-47 nod over Magnavox Research Laboratories as Tom Cykon blistered the nets for 24 points and manager Frosty White dumped in 19 more. Larry Pitts (14) and Jim Thomas (12) paced Magnavox.

FOODS CO., behind 17 points by manager Gary Little, 11 by Dennis Pitts and 10 by Joe Nelson, gained a 54-49 Industrial League victory over Harvey Aluminum. For the losers, Charles Knight canned 16 points. Som Wolf contributed 13 and manager Ed Riley added 12.

Mike Novikoff hit 20 points and Sam Goddard added 13 as AirResearch ripped Local 1-547, 57-36.

Russ Bierley, with 13 points, and Manny Glasser with 11 pushed the Jack Kramer Club to a 37-41 triumph over Aeronca. Bill Clark pumped in 16 points for the losers.