

Coach Defends South Program

(Varsity Grid Coach Ken Swift of South High School today outlines some of the factors which he believes are at the base of the Spartan football fortunes (or lack thereof). Coach Swift, writing in response to comments made here last week by Press-Herald Sports Editor Henry Burke, offers an articulate defense of the South High players, student body, and boosters. We believe his letter does much to set the matter in its proper perspective.)

Mr. Glenn W. Pfeil, Publisher
Torrance Press-Herald
3238 West Sepulveda Boulevard
Torrance, California
Dear Mr. Pfeil:

This is my seventh year of football coaching. Prior to South High School, I coached at South Pasadena High School. While I was there, South Pasadena won 44 games and lost seven and won two C.I.F. football championships. I also had the pleasure of coaching three Rio Hondo track championships. I will have to admit that I have many pleasant memories of those years when winning came easy.

Two years ago I moved to South High School to try my hand at reviving South's football fortune. One and one-half years have passed now, and to many there is little change in the football program at South. I have spent many long and sleepless nights wondering what has to be done to produce a winning program at South High School. To be very truthful I am not sure that I have the answer now. To be sure there may not be any single simple answer for South's downfall. I would not attempt to put down all of the many areas that the administration, coaches, and student body have considered. What I would like to do is express a few thoughts that may be unique for a coach in my position.

1. The athletes at South High School have proved on many other fields of endeavor that they are as good or better than most of the South Bay area schools.

2. There were approximately two hundred students out for Varsity, B, and C football. At this point in the Varsity season, there have been four athletes who have quit the Varsity football team for one reason or another. There are six boys who have been injured early in the season and have been at every practice session or team meeting.

3. It is not possible to state that the football team has given the coaching staff one hundred per cent effort on every occasion, but I can say without reservation that the athletes have mustered as much, and in most cases greater, practice effort than any team I have coached or have ever seen.

4. I am sure that there are more talented athletes at other schools, but to be fair with South we must admit to ourselves that our athletes are at least on a par with fifty per cent of the schools we play.

5. The three Varsity coaches must do and reflect the thinking of the head coach. Besides that we might point out a few things about their backgrounds:

Jim Ritchko—All C.I.F. tackle, football at University of Oregon.

Howard Buettgenbach—Four years football at Oregon State and co-captain in his senior year under Tommy Prothro (2nd place in P.C.C.), freshman coach at Oregon State.

Jerry McIlvaine—Successful baseball, basketball, and football coach at South High School for the past seven years.

6. School and district administration have been more than cooperative. The district has provided nothing but the best in the way of uniforms and equipment for South's football players. The high school administration has granted every request of coaches for rallies, rooters' buses, etc. They have made it a point to support the athletic staff through a very difficult season.

7. The student body is not made up of long haired, weird surfers but instead is a group of above-average teenagers who week after week support their football team better than most student bodies with winning teams.

What then can we say about the Spartan football program? First, I would like to state that I would not trade any of the young men who have played football for me for all of the C.I.F. champs in the state. These young "men" have sweated and strained through this most uncomfortable season.

These young men are only part of a total educational program and while we know that South is not a football power, we must not judge the total educational program by this.

I cannot say that I am happy with this season, but I will not blame these young men for the season. I have a very deep respect for all of the athletes who have and are playing under me. I respect and admire all of the various aspects of the South High School program. I respect the educational value of the sport of football and hope that we might judge not only on a winning level, but also on what it does for the students who play it.

Last but certainly not least, must we place the blame for South's showing on someone? Is it beneficial to state that the coach, administrator, or a group of athletes is at fault? Does this relieve some of the embarrassment we feel when we see or identify with a losing team?

I am very proud of the football players at South who are doing all that is possible to represent their high school. Let's not poke fun or blame them but do everything that is possible to encourage them. This team does not need any more detractors but all of the support they can get.

Sincerely yours,
Kenneth W. Swift,
Varsity Football Coach



A. J. FOYT

A. J. Foyt Tops Field For Sprint

A. J. Foyt, Mario Andretti, Don Branson and a dozen more major league automobile race drivers will whirl around Ascot Park's fast half-mile dirt oval Saturday night in a championship U.S. Auto Club sprint car program with the national title on the line.

Greg Weld, of Kansas City, Mo., the driving sensation of the sprint car season that started last April in the east, holds a slim 6.5 point margin (481.5 to 475 over runner-up Johnny Rutherford of Ft. Worth, Tex., going into the J.C. Agajanian directed speedfest.

Both are entered Saturday as well as in a second Ascot program Saturday night, Nov. 13. The latter race ends USAC's national season for the sprint division.

Bobby Unser of Albuquerque, N.M., winner of three of the last four USAC sprints, has a slim chance at the championship, but he would have to win the two Ascot 30-lap main events and both Weld and Rutherford fail to score a point.

Foyt, USAC's four time national champion and double Indianapolis winner, will drive the No. 2 Morales Bros. Offy, better known in speed circles as the "Tamale Wagon".

Parnelli Jones set the Ascot 30-lap sprint car record of 11:22.89 in the Morales Offy in 1963 along with the 3-lap trophy dash record of 1:08.51 the same night.

Amble League Formed for Recreation

Basketball season for the Torrance Recreation Department gets into full swing this month with the start of five major programs.

Amble basketball, geared for adults, is a slowed-down version of the same spirited court-sprinting. The programs gets under way with practice sessions beginning tomorrow at the Torrance High School gym.

League play begins the third week of January. Players practice from 6:45 to 9:35 one night weekly. There is no charge.

EL CAMINO TRAVELS TO BAKERSFIELD

"Renegades on the Run" is what El Camino College football team hopes to see on Saturday Night at the movies. The Warriors travel to Bakersfield for the biennial sell out.

Coach Ken Swearingen and the ECC men go into the tussle with a 4-1 record, with victories over Phoenix, Pierce, Mt. SAC and East L.A. Bakersfield's only loss came at the hands of defending Junior Rose Bowl champ, Long Beach.

Leading the attack again will be All-American candidate, Rick Eber. Eber has combined with Carey Hubert on 41 pass receptions, including 13 touchdowns, for a total of 785 yards to lead the conference and Southern California.

Hubert has now completed 71 passes in 109 attempts.

Bakersfield goes into the game with a 28-21 victory over L.A. Valley.

El Camino has had an extra week to prepare after drawing a bye last weekend.

Bakersfield holds an eight-year winning streak over the Warriors and the team is reported to be up for the game.

Caminonites face another rugged duel next week (Nov. 13), facing Long Camino homecoming event.

Tanner Seeks 300 Victories

West Coast motorcycle racers hit the next to last lap of their 29-week season Friday night at Ascot Park.

The entire field of 96 flat-track whizzers from champ Sammy Tanner to the lowliest novice is looking ahead to the 1965 state championships of Nov. 12.

Tanner, who has cinched the Ascot championship for the fourth time in the AMA's expert division, is on his way to becoming the second rider in history to win 300 races.

Al Gunter holds the record of 366 wins, but his were scored over a 12 year period. Tanner, the famed "Flying Flea" of the two-wheelers, is completing his 10th season. Sammy has a potential of 301, including trophy dashes, heats and main events.

J. C. Agajanian presents **USAC SPRINT CAR RACING PROGRAM** with Indianapolis Drivers
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At Mt. SAC

Warriors Win Six Trophies

West High cross country runners won five individual trophies and the junior varsity team championship at the Mt. San Antonio College Invitational meet Saturday.

The Warrior jayvees, led by Bill Franz, finished at the top of the team scoring with 67 points in the "A" division. Franz finished first in the race with a time of 11:22. Tom Johnston was fifth with a time of 11:32. Both won individual trophies.

Individual trophies were awarded to varsity distance Tom Purkey and freshmen Jim Poush and Steve Smith. West finished third in the varsity race and second in the freshman race, while the Warrior sophomores took third place.

Warrior freshmen took three of the top 10 spots with Jim Poush leading all freshmen. Poush's time was 12:09. Steve Smith was third in 12:12, while Mike Fraser was 10th in 12:34.

Purkey cleared the course in 10:47 for a sixth place finish, best of the Warrior varsity contenders. Phil Raftery was ninth in 10:49. West's No. 1 man, Mike Sellers, was 32 in the field with a time of 11:37. Sellers has been nursing an injured leg.

West high finishers included:

Varsity — Purkey (6) 10:47, Raftery (9) 10:49, Clark (13) 11:05, Sellers (32) 11:37, and Neils (37) 11:42.

Junior Varsity — Franz (1) 11:32, Johnston (5) 11:32, J. Smith (8) 11:43, Tobin (23) 12:13, and Sage (30) 12:25.

Sophomores — Rodefer (8) 11:35, Turin (18) 12:27, Lantoni (15) 12:28, Young (21) 12:35, and B. Fraser (29) 12:38.

Freshmen — Poush (1) 12:09, S. Smith (3) 12:12, M. Fraser (10) 12:34, Tusing (12) 12:39, and Cooper (26) 12:36.

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Spartans Second In Cross Country

Participating against 157 high schools in the Mount San Antonio invitational cross country meet Saturday, South High came home with two team and six individual trophies. The Spartans were shaded for first place by Burbank High, 50-51.

Lenny Jay took first place in the time of 10:24 and Jeff Marsee finished sixth (10:49) to win individual trophies. Steve Kaplan (11:00), George Watson (11:11), and Louis Salatino (11:19) completed the scoring that brought home to South the runner-up trophy.

The Spartan junior varsity squad captured the first place trophy by defeating Helix High JV, 29-50.

Team members were Steve Edmonds (11:21), Jeff Walker (11:35), Tim Trickle (11:37), Doug Malone (11:46), and Ron Graeme (11:53). Edmonds, Walker, and Trickle won individual medals for finishing first, fifth and sixth.

The Sophomore team, finished sixth. A good race was turned in by Bart Doyle (12:09), Bob Mitchell (12:24), and John Secondo (12:27).

Decker Underwood won the sixth individual medal of

Rams Leave Town for Three Games

Rocked by five straight losses and holding a 1-6 league mark going into the second half of the season, the Rams take to the road for three games, starting with the Minnesota Vikings at Bloomington, Minnesota on Sunday.

The Rams, who suffered through eight fumbles and three pass interceptions while bowing to the Detroit Lions, 31-7, were pushed further into the division cellar.

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