

PLANNING STRATEGY . . . Jim Cook (left), who will drive for Vel's Ford in Torrance in Sunday afternoon stock car races at Western Speedway, talks racing over with Clairse Lewis of Torrance and number one-ranked driver Marvin Heinis. Racing begins at 2:30 p.m.

## The Fearless Spectator

By

—Charles McCabe, Esquire—



The Greeks had a word for it. The ancient, if not always honorable, sport of pitting game cocks against each other. It has occupied a prominent part in English-speaking life. As a contest to bet a twopenny or two.

Cocking mains were big in Britain from the Twelfth Century to the middle of the Nineteenth Century, when they were legally banned. Once, in an earlier day, they had been outlawed for a few years by that King of Killjoys, Oliver Cromwell.

Cockfighting was banned in Britain less from a revulsion against blooded sports than the increasing popularity of horse racing and betting thereon.

The sport is still popular, though illegal, along the Eastern Seaboard and in the South. It was a large part of life in Spanish California. And far from unknown today. It's easier to find a cockfight in these parts than a Grant avenue floating crap game. Much.

A few months ago in an abandoned California barn, cops found 29 fighting cocks, and just missed 70 fleet-footed farmers in 44 automobiles.

Yet I had not known, until the other day, the richness of the cocking main's contribution to the colorful language of sports, and the stream of English itself.

I had lunch with Mr. Peter Tamony, an amateur of words. Peter is a fascinating fellow. He said, "You know all about cockfighting words, don't you?" I said I did not, and he continued:

"When a cock was trimmed, it was said to be 'in trim.' When a particular good job of trimming was done, the bird was said to be 'clean cut' and 'in good trim.' Condition was judged by the color of the flesh, and when this was pink, a bird was said to be 'in the pink.'

"A cock in the pink and in fighting trim, if not cowardly, was said to be 'game,' and if it fought to the death, was 'dead game,' which is the ultimate in courage.

"When a cock was 'heeled,' he was provided with 'gaffs.' In the West this practice became the basis of a metaphor and, through extension, came to mean the possession of firearms, good poker hands, and worldly goods.

"To be able to 'stand the gaff' meant that a bird could take punishment and hold ground in the face of discouraging circumstances.

"After the birds were 'matched' in weight, they were 'pitted' and 'set-to (fighting).' These terms are used extensively in sports, and victors still 'crow over' vanquished rivals.

"Occasionally a competitor 'cuts his own throat' while trying to overcome another. This figure is from cockfighting. Sometimes an unfair 'handler' sharpened both edges of the gaff to make sure of victory, only to have his cock cut its own throat while making a pass."

## Bob Hogle Tops Field At Ascot

Big car racing returns to Ascot Park Saturday night as the California Racing Assn. speedsters stage an eight-race, 30-lap battle.

The first race is at 8:30 p.m., with time trials beginning at 7 p.m.

ALTHOUGH he has had trouble this year, one of the past term's point leaders, Bob Hogle, is expected to make a big splash.

Rated by racing experts as a cinch "future" for Indianapolis, Hogle has taken over the wheel of the car in which he won his sole main event race of the year.

ALSO ON HAND will be Billy Cantrell, winner of four mains this year and eight last year. Allen Heath will be present with a 270-cubic-inch Offy.

Louie and Bobby Unser, Jack Brunner, Dee Jones, and a field of more than 40 others will also bid for the top slot.

## Heinis Holds Point Lead At Western

Bill Foster and Jim Cook will put in a bid for Marvin Heinis' stock car point lead Sunday at Western Speedway's 30-lap feature at 2:30 p.m.

Heinis, the number one driver in the point duel, will wheel an Oldsmobile, as will Foster, the number two man. Heinis leads Foster by 265 points. He has scored four feature wins this year while Foster has collected two.

Cook, who will wheel a Ford, has five feature wins, and trails Heinis by 285 points.

Fourth place is held by 1961 champ Arley Schanton, who has 370 points between himself and Heinis. Bob Hattig holds on to fifth place, 770 points from the top rung.

# TORRANCE HERALD Sports

54

AUGUST 16, 1962

## Keggas Rip Long Beach For Crown

Unstoppable as always, the Tappa Keggas shut out four straight teams to capture the West Coast Slo-Pitch title over the weekend in Redondo Beach.

Ripping 33 hits in four games, mostly behind the sticking of Chuck Schoendienst, Ray Magante, Mick Ryan, Gib Matthew and Bill Morris, the Kegs shutout Redondo Post Office, 6-0; Manhattan Beach, 5-0; Gardena, 4-0, and Long Beach, 6-0, to take the title.

Outfielder Ryan, shortstop Matthews, and thirdbaseman Schoendienst made the all-tournament team while Magante earned the most valuable player trophy.

KEGGA MANAGER Chuck Ryan chalked up two pitching wins and also picked up the outstanding manager trophy.

Magnante won the "Most Valuable award after batting .500 for the three-day, 16-team tournament and pulling in a fast-dropping fly ball in the final game to stave-off a Long Beach rally.

IN THE FINAL game, the Tappas shoved over five runs in the third frame to break a scoreless deadlock with stubborn Long Beach.

Long Beach was a darkhorse in the tournament, and the Kegs upended the second-rated team, Gardena, in the opening game Sunday night.

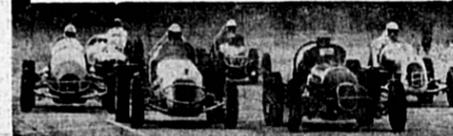
SATURDAY NIGHT, the Tappa Keggas will enjoy the fruit of their West Coast Slo-Pitch League championship at the First Annual Awards Dinner-Dance in Gardena.



MODERN-DAY PIRATES . . . Tappa Keggia coach Chuck Ryan (right) and outfielder Ray Magnante walked off with a large share of the trophies presented following Torrance's victory in the West Coast Slo-Pitch Tournament.

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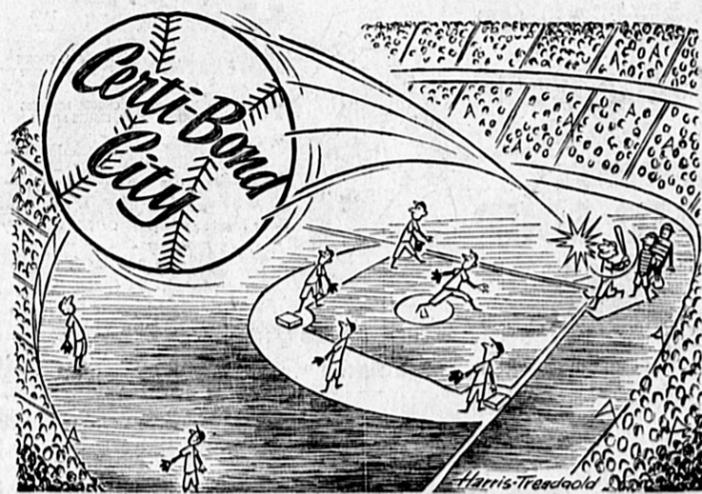
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