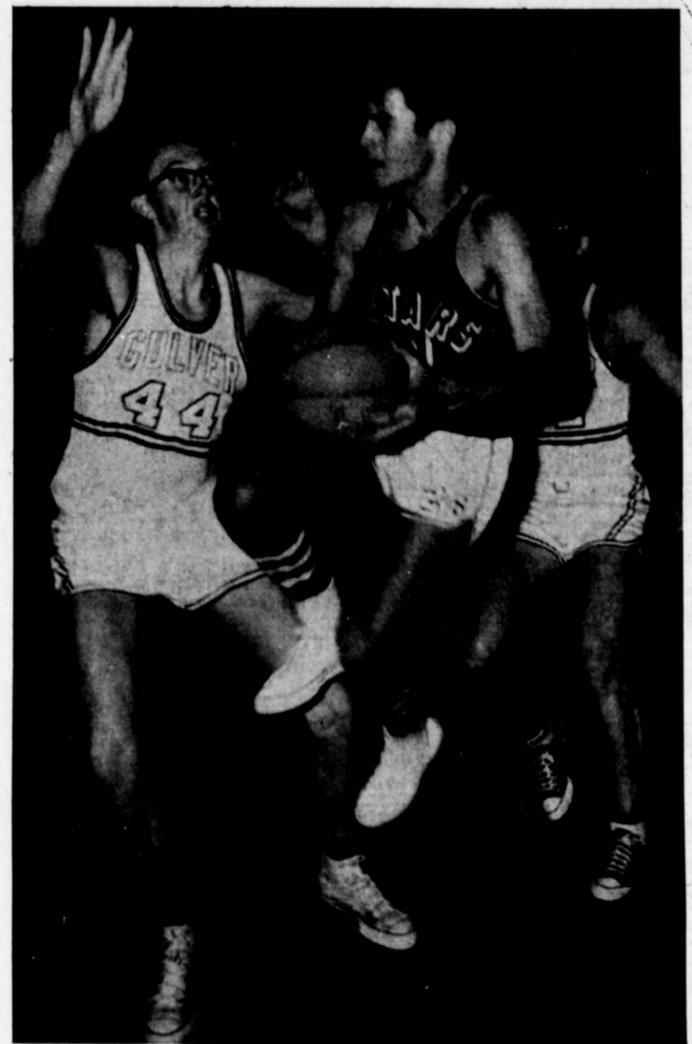


North Reaches Beverly Finals

TORRANCE HERALD

Sports

8 GREGG PETERSON, Sports Editor DECEMBER 22, 1963



GOING UP . . . Tartar cager Bobby Romero drives in for a shot at the basket during action Friday night in the Beverly Hills Invitational tourney. In position to block the attempt is Culver City center Jeff Ehmier. Ehmier at 6-9, used his height to good advantage and blocked several Tartar shots from the floor. Culver defeated Torrance to eliminate the locals from the tourney in the semi-finals of the consolation round. (Herald Photo)

Torrance Loses Bid For Tourney 'Title'

Torrance High combined its best and worst halves of basketball Friday night in the consolation semi-finals of the Beverly Hills Invitational and dropped a 63-47 decision to Culver City.

The first half was the best of the year for Torrance. Tartar coach Will Boerger felt his team "played almost perfect ball. This performed well enough to cart a 34-29 lead in to the locker room.

It was a different game af-

ter halftime as Torrance managed only 13 points in the final two quarters while Culver City maintained its steady scoring pace.

TORRANCE dropped in 11 of 27 field goal attempts in the first half while Culver City hit on 10 of 24 attempts from the floor. After intermission, the Tartars managed only 6 of 27 shots and Culver connected on 15 of 22.

The Tartars are primarily a

running team and Boerger said, "Maybe we are too young to take three games in four days."

YOUTH, inexperience and Culver's 6-9 center Jeff Ekmier proved the difference. Ekmier provided the necessary rebounding for the Centaurs and dropped in 17 points to top all scorers.

Forward Walt Hale, who hit 15 points but tired badly in the last two quarters, was the only Tartar to connect in double figures.

Boerger also felt a halftime change in Culver's defense hurt Torrance. In the opening quarters, the Cents used a strict man-to-man, but after the break, they switched to a combination man-to-man and a zone and the Tartars were unable to adjust.

A 69-54 WIN over Santa Monica on Thursday moved Torrance into the consolation semi-finals. Plagued by a two-year rash of losses, Samo started off with a bang and carried a 14-7 lead into the second period.

THS bounced back and led 25-21 at intermission. Both quintets plunked 14 markers through the hoop in the third stanza, but Torrance came up with a 30-point last quarter to wring out the win.

Returning letterman Mike Hatter and forward Walt Hales each accounted for 21 points to top the Tartar gunners. Guard Bob Brennan also hit in double figures, canning 12 digits.

Banning Subdues First-Year Colts

Carson High wound up the first round of Marine League basketball play last week with a 59-31 loss to powerful Banning.

Despite a 23-point outburst in the opening quarter, Carson dropped its third decision in five league starts. From the first period on, Banning held the upper hand, easily outscoring the first-year Colts.

Senior center Pat Holmes, one of the league's top scorers, was held to 10 points by the host Banning quintet. Holmes, at 6-3, averaged 20.4 points per game prior to the Pilot contest and was the first Marine Leaguer to drop in over 100 points.

STEVE MEADE, a 5-11 junior guard, wound up with 14 points to top Carson. Harvey

Holmes, Pat's younger brother, canned 11 markers.

Banning's three-quarter resurgence was led by Joe Ortiz, the smallest man on the court at 5-7, who flipped 17 markers through the hoop. Glenn Brun and Bob Stephens wound up with 16 points apiece for the Pilots.

Rebounding from its 23-14 first period deficit, Banning earned a 29-29 tie at intermission and went ahead 42-39 after three quarters of play.

AL ANGEL, a 5-9 guard, was instrumental in Banning's comeback. Angel pulled down 9 rebounds compared to 8 for Pat Holmes, Carson's leading rebounder.

Knights Succumb To Pater Noster

Once-beaten Pater Noster outscored Bishop Montgomery in every quarter Friday night to pick up a 72-53 triumph and the St. Monica Invitational cage championship.

The tournament's Most Valuable Player, forward Jim Halbur, responded with 23 points in the title clash to pace the Pater Noster triumph.

"They are good . . . the best we have played," Montgomery head coach Roger Folsom commented after the game.

BILL BROWN dumped in 15 markers and Tony Guggiana and Pete Macarrone hit 14 points in a vain attempt to give Montgomery the crown. Both Brown and Guggiana were selected to the all-tournament team.

Pater Noster sailed out in front with a 13-8 lead after one quarter and increased the margin to 35-18 by intermission. In the third quarter, the eventual winners held a 21-20 scoring bulge, and in the final stanza, Montgomery was out-gunned, 16-15.

IN THE OPENING round of the four-team tourney on Thursday, Montgomery came up with a 39-point outburst in

the second quarter and coasted to a 62-41 decision over St. John Vianney.

Montgomery and Vianney battled to an 11-11 tie after the opening eight minutes, but Folsom's crew got its fast break rolling and pushed into halftime with a 41-21 bulge.

DENNIS BLACKBURN, Tom Jamison and Guggiana controlled the boards in the second quarter and started the fast break off with quick, accurate passes to ignite the Montgomery romp.

Vianney attempted a comeback after halftime and outscored the Knights, 10-8 in the third quarter and 10-3 in the final period, but could not overcome the huge deficit.

GUGGIANA canned 12 points and Brown added 10 more digits in slightly more than one half of playing time. In an effort to keep the score respectable, Folsom played his second string throughout the final two quarters.

After a break for the Christmas holidays, Montgomery will swing back into non-league action Thursday, Jan. 2, against Harvard in the opening round of the Chadwick Tournament.

Denson Cans 68 In Two Contests

Deadly Don Denson sent 68 points through the cords in two games last week as South High skyrocketed to non-league basketball victories over Centennial and West.

Denson flipped in 40 points against Centennial and 28 more against West as South boosted its won-lost record to 6-2.

South outscored Centennial in every quarter and canned 25 markers in the final period Wednesday afternoon to collect a 75-37 triumph. Against West, the Spartans took advantage of 28 fouls for a 48-37 decision Friday.

A 6-3 ALL-BAY League forward, Denson connected on 14 field goals and hit on 12 of 17 free throws against Centennial. Steve Kuckenbecker, a 6-5 sophomore center, was the only other Spartan to hit in double figures. Kuckenbecker dropped 15 points through the nets.

After one quarter of play, South boasted a 19-13 edge

over the Apaches, and by intermission, the Spartans pushed the gap to 38-26. A three-point third quarter killed Centennial as South chalked up 12 more markers and went into the last stanza with a 50-29 bulge.

Fifty-one fouls marked the South-West contest and four Warriors were prematurely sent to the bench.

In the first half, South tallied 22 points, and 18 of them came via the free throw route. At intermission, the count was tied at 22-22, but Denson and South changed matters in the final period.

WEST PICKED up a 31-30 edge after three quarters, but Denson suddenly got hot and the Spartans outscored the Warriors, 18-6, to clinch the decision.

Terry Febles, Dan Gala, John Cochran and John Marsden, all starters, fouled out for West. Although at halftime Denson had four fouls, South lost only Steve French.



DEADLY AIM . . . Saxon forward Mike Gratzke goes into the air to arc a shot over the outstretched arms of Bellflower defenders Jim Olson (44) and Ken Poelstra (41) in closing moments of the semi-final game at the Beverly Hills Invitational Friday night. (Herald Photo)

Saxons Spring Upset In Semi-Final Game

Terry Tierney parlayed a stolen pass into a pressure-packed two-point layup in the final eight seconds Friday night to give North High a 50-48 win over Bellflower and move the Saxons into the final

round of the Beverly Hills Invitational Tournament.

With Bellflower in the midst of a late-game rally that appeared to give the Buccaneers a crack at the tourney title, Tierney turned on the pressure, forcing a bad pass, and took the loose roundball more than half the length of the court for the deciding bucket.

North dominated the semi-final contest for more than three quarters before foul trouble in the closing minutes almost cost it the upset decision.

BELLFLOWER came from eight points back in the closing minutes, tied the count at 48-48, and appeared destined to pull out the win before Tierney came up with his stolen pass.

The two big Saxons, 6-8 Ron Taylor and 6-5 Al Lepper turned out to be too much for Bellflower. Lepper canned 9 points, Taylor added 10 more and both players were rugged on the boards.

MIKE GRATZKE, an unheeded forward, flipped 18 points through the hoop for North and topped all scorers. Thursday afternoon North

hung a 52-47 defeat on Mira Costa to move into the semi-finals.

Taylor and Lepper both hit for 17 points and Gratzke added 11 more as the Saxons held off a late Michichi rally to

North High met Ventura at 8:30 last night in the championship round of the Beverly Hills Basketball Invitational. Ventura gained the final round with an 88-72 triumph over El Monte Friday night. Results of the title game were not available at press time.

gain the rubber-game win over the Mustangs. Earlier in the year, North and Mira Costa had taken turns beating each other.

Lepper guided North to a 26-15 lead over Michichi at intermission and helped the Saxons hold their 11 point lead through most of the second half. The Mustangs, although they managed only five field goals in the opening two quarters, almost caught North in the final two minutes of the contest.

The Mustang bid ended when Taylor hit on three clutch layups that left the game out of reach.

Balanced Scoring Nets Camino Win

Well-balanced El Camino College outlasted Citrus College Friday night for a 74-73 non-conference basketball triumph.

Nine Warriors wound up in the scoring column to outweigh a fine scoring effort by Russ Banko and Joe Young of Citrus. Banko, a 6-5 forward, dumped in 31 points, and Young, a 6-7 center who was the CIF's Player of the Year at El Monte last season, wound up with 20 markers.

GLENDALE City College

transfer Clark Canfield turned in another outstanding performance, tossing in 26 points, to pace El Camino to its third win in eight outings.

Neither quintet led by more than six points and the lead changed hands 24 times in the evenly-matched contest. With seven minutes remaining in the game, Camino held a 61-60 bulge, but the Warriors managed to build up a 74-68 lead with 4:47 still left. From there on out it was just a question of whether Citrus could catch the Warriors.



STRANGE RITUAL . . . South and West high cagers all have one thought in mind as the object of their affection begins its descent back to terra firma after missing the hoop in Friday's clash between the two cross-town rivals. South survived a penalty-filled first half and came up with a one-sided non-league triumph. (Herald Photo)