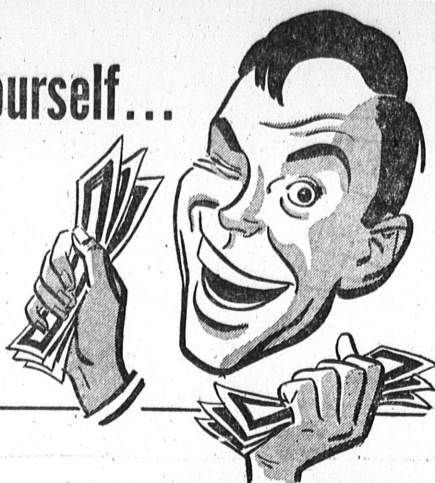


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Bay League Roundup

Rates Samohi Favorite In 1952 Basketball Race

By Don Wright

Santa Monica's Vikings appear a good bet to keep up the Bay League athletic domination they started last fall in football for a few more months as the basketball season nears opening night.

Tom McGavin's veteran quintet, manned chiefly by the same crew that made a shambles of the grid race, rates the favored spot over a trio of other Bay League teams that also look tough.

Beverly Hills, Redondo Beach and Inglewood are bunched behind Samohi in pre-season ratings—but it is doubtful if any of them have the manpower to end the Santa Monica dynasty

that began in September.

Luzinger and Torrance, with practically green clubs, will probably fight it out for basement honors.

The Vikings are loaded with experienced talent. Big scorers on the club are forward Millard Paxton, a little guy with lots of speed, and center R. C. Owens, a big guy who is tough under the boards. Sandy Lederman, the Vikes' Great quarterback, holds down the other forward spot.

"Roving Ronnie" Knox, the Bay League's leading collector of different colored letterman's sweaters, is holding down one guard job, while another foot-

baller, Neal, has the other. Knox performed for Beverly Hills last year in basketball before transferring to Inglewood for football. He then wound up at Santa Monica for basketball.

Steve Mitchell's Beverly Hills club is made up mainly of boys up from last year's Bee club. The Normans, who tied with Inglewood for the title last year, are led in the scoring department by center George Elbogen.

Redondo Beach pulled a big surprise by winning the consolation round of the recent Long Beach Invitational tournament. Mel Seifert's Seahawks, another quiet team of last year, is paced by George Chalkson, a forward who made the all-tournament team at Long Beach.

Inglewood, too, rates in the almost-but-not-quite class. The Sentinels, who qualified for the CIF playoff by virtue of their two wins over Beverly Hills in Bay League play last year, also lost most of their experienced personnel, and coach Hank Gearhardt will be forced to depend upon many boys up from the Bee team.

Torrance and Luzinger rank in the probable also-ran class. Both Bob Roberts of the Olympians and Rex Welsh of the Tartars have clubs that are green as grass.

Green Torrance Five Hosts Inglewood

Inglewood, defending Bay League basketball champion, comes to town tomorrow night to see what it can start to do about keeping the title in the loop opener against Torrance, a team that probably will do more watching than anything else in the forthcoming scramble for top honors.

The Sentinels, too, are expected to watch some one else—namely Santa Monica—run away with first place.

But, just who will win the Bay crown is something that probably won't be decided for many weeks to come. The official chase gets started tomorrow night on the local floor. The preliminary game will begin at 7 p.m., with the varsity clash following.

Coach Rex Welsh's win-starved Tartars will open the league season with a team that will find only one old hand in the starting lineup—forward Jack O'Call.

The game will also be the beginning of the end for the old, and somewhat tarnished, Torrance gymnasium—home floor for the Tartars for too many seasons. Next year the locals will move into the big, new gym now under construction. It will undoubtedly be a parting with no sorrow attached.

Coach Hank Gearhardt will bring an Inglewood team to town that is almost as green as the Tartars. Almost, but not quite.

The Sentinels have had better fortune so far this season than have the Tartars—they've won some games. Made up mainly of players from last year's Inglewood Bee team, Gearhardt's club

made a good showing in the San Diego prep tournament last month.

Against this team Welch will open with a quintet that has worked as a unit in only one game—Wednesday's final tuneup against Narbonne.

This five will find O'Call and Larry Roy, a converted guard, at forwards, Tommy Wolford at center, and Lee Mortinson and Bob Maloy at guards. Only O'Call and Roy have been consistent starters so far. Wolford, Mortinson, and Maloy have seen duty in reserve roles.

Chief reserve roles will be handled by Chie Cope, a guard, and Guy Farrington, a center. Farrington had been a starter most of the season, but apparently has lost his job to Wolford.

TORRANCE HERALD

Sports

Warriors Take Rest Before Metro Opener

Tom Bailey's El Camino basketball club, with more than a dozen practice games behind it, takes a few days off this week-end, but they won't be exactly idle.

Bailey will spend most of the time getting the Warriors ready to open the Metropolitan conference schedule a week from Friday night, January 11, in San Diego.

The next night, January 12, the Warriors will open their Metro home stand against the powerful Huskies from East Los Angeles JC.

El Camino, last year a runner-up in the Sam Barry Memorial tournament in Glendale, had a tough time of it last week in the same meet.

The Warriors were dumped in the first round of the tournament by Los Angeles City College. Minus their scoring star, Mack Taylor, the Cubs still had enough to win, 61-53.

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