

The Fearless Spectator

By

Charles McCabe, Esquire



It is a view held in some learned quarters that, in the murky recesses of our hearts, us here sporting authors are all frustrated fullbacks or twisted third basemen. These same savants are not above muttering G. B. S.'s line about "those who can, do; those who cannot, teach." Because we didn't make the third-string lacrosse team, the argument runs, we spend the rest of our lives working out our obscure aggressions by attacking a lot of clean-living, highly co-ordinated American heroes. It is even suggested that we are less rosy with righteousness than green with envy.

I'm beginning to think there's something to this view. Though we can't run or field good, there are some of us authors who write kinda good. We get even with our betters by using the quill. Boy, do we ever! We use our lexicon the way one of those darling Minutemen uses a recoilless rifle.

Athletes merely win a contest. Sports writers rock, sock, stagger, swamp, jolt, jar, rout, decision, upset, topple or trounce the opponent. And if these verbs of action are vitiated by continual use, the authors clobber, annihilate, atomize, H-bomb, humiliate, thump, gouge, whack, down, blast or pulverize the hated foe while orbiting to or eking out a victory.

These snappy sentiments were snipped from our nation's sporting pages by one Professor Percy Tannenbaum, a University of Wisconsin communications expert. He made a survey of sports writing, and called what he found "Sportuguese" — a coinage for which one must be eternally grateful. The good doctor found that regular readers of sports page lingo "experience no difficulty in comprehending . . . but others are kept in the dark."

You know who those wicked "others" are. The broads. The word of the sports page is one of the few enclaves of male pleasure that has not been invaded by our glorious mates. And we mean to keep it that way. Us sporting writers will continue to guard the sacred flame. We shall continue to write a carefully cabalistic prose, so crowded with veriginous verbs and arcane adjectives that even a lady golfer will scarcely know what we are talking about.

The only place where a woman can get a voyeuristic peek into this special world of sports is, of course, in the lines of the Fearless Spectator. "Tell the dollies something about sports, but not too much" was our mandate when we took up the task of knocking out a daily homily about the sweaty armpit set. On the whole we have been successful. Once, however, we referred to a boxing writer as a Thucydides of thud, only to have several learned ladies inquire what a thud meant.

Meantime, rest assured that nobody's going to get staggered or blasted in this column. They will be titubant or nucleated. Class, above all.

TORRANCE HERALD

Sports

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DECEMBER 3, 1961



INSPIRATIONAL AWARD . . . Most inspirational player on the El Camino College grid team during the past football season was team's leading scorer, Mike Andrews, also an All-Metropolitan Conference grid selection. He is congratulated, above, by Coach Doug Essick during presentation ceremonies held this week at the Norm Verry Memorial Dinner sponsored by American Legion Post 184 in Redondo Beach.

SANTA ANA NEXT

El Camino Cagers Bow To Orange Coast, 80-69

After a season-evening defeat at the hands of Orange Coast, 80 to 68, El Camino hoopsters will attempt to get back on the winning trail against Santa Ana, Tuesday night at 8 in the Tribe gym.

Following a heartstopping win against Cerritos, EC went into the Pirates contest with buoyed hopes that were soon deflated by Orange Coast. The hosts raced to a 34 to 31 half time lead then poured 46 points into the net after intermission to walk away with an easy win.

Ron Dinnel, freshman ace from Aviation netted 17 points to lead the Indians in the losing cause. Starter Keith Erickson and substitute Dick Jones each gunned in 10 points for the Warriors.

After considerable experimenting, it appears EC mentor George Stanich has finally settled on a starting five.

Three lettermen, guard Dan Karavas and Dave Brown and forward Mike Shrader plus center Keith Erickson will team up to compose the Warrior's

starting five. Dick Jones is a threat to Brown or Karvas at the guard slots. Jones has been impressive with his ball handling and shooting, dropping in 10 points against Orange Coast.

Dan Karavas shoved El Camino into the lead for the first time in the contest against Cerritos when he hit on a pair of free throws with 6:05 remaining in the game and EC moved ahead 47-46.

After almost two minutes, Keith Erickson dunked a short jumper to make the scoreboard read 49-46, and the Tribe was on the way to its second victory of the season against an opening game defeat.

Dons Advance in Playoffs

El Rancho, 16-0 conqueror of North High in the first round of the CIF playoffs last week, went on to greater glory Friday night, dumping favored Long Beach Poly, 14 to 7, in a second round upset.

Poly is only the fourth club to score on the Don eleven this year, but one TD was not good enough. Frank Lovelace bucked one yard for the first El Rancho score and Ynez

Garcia hit Frank Mazzotta with a 27-yard aerial in the final quarter to give the invaders the needed winning margin.

The Jackrabbits' only score came on a 37-yard gallop by Leonard Hall in the second period. El Rancho will meet CIF favorite Muir in the semifinals next week.

Pioneer League champ Culver City moved into the final round of the AAA division finals by upending rugged Serra, 6 to 0. Serra had compiled the finest defensive record in the CIF, but the Centaurs' Jerry Klein bulldozed from one yard out to chalk up the second score given up by the Spartans this year.

On three occasions Serra made drives to the Centaur's

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SEASON OPENS

Spurian, Tartar Quintets Win Debuts, North Loses

North High and Torrance have lined up with 14 other top cage teams in the Southland awaiting for the tip-off in the 20th annual Beverly Hills High School Invitational Basketball Tournament set for Dec. 12-16.

As the 16 squads prepare to clash in Beverly Hills' Swim-Gym, experts are touting Anaheim, Fillmore, and Mira Costa as the teams to beat.

Other squads vying for one of the trophies given to the first five finishers are Bellflower, Compton, Culver City, El Monte, El Segundo, Montebello, Morningside, Redondo, Santa Monica, and Ventura High schools, along with the host Beverly Hills Normans.

Inspirational Award Given To Andrews

Mike Andrews, formerly an All-Bay League end at South High and now an All-Metropolitan Conference flanker for El Camino College, has been awarded the most inspirational Player of the Year award by American Legion Post 184 of Redondo.

Presented at a Norm Verry Memorial Dinner this week, the freshman Warrior was given the trophy for his playing, his leadership and his inspiration during the Indians' 5-4 season and fourth place finish in the Metro Conference.

Andrews moved right into a starting position for El Camino and wound up as the club's leading scorer, finishing fourth in that department in the conference.

THE DINNER was given for the memory of the El Camino coach who died early in the grid season following a 20-day hospitalization after his fourth cerebral hemorrhage. Doug Essick took over for Verry during the remainder of the season, but 26-year-old Ken Swearingen has been named the new ECC head coach for next year.

At the beginning of practice, Andrews was supposed to take a back seat for Kurt Altenberg, All-CIF end from Serra High, but the former Spartan star developed quickly, taking over as the top Tribe flanker.

Andrews was the main target all year long for another Serra great, John Torok. The two teamed to make last year's great Warrior aerial combination of All-American quarterback Ron Veres to Paul Burleson just a dim memory to most ECC fans.

YOUTH AND LACK of experience will handicap this year's Tartar quintet, according to Will Boerger, Torrance basketball coach. Damon Wishman, the team's only returning letterman, will carry the burden of play and should be the man to watch if the Tartars hit a hot streak.

North High finds itself in much the same predicament at Torrance with only one letterman, Ron Davidson, returning. The Saxons will find this season hard going compared to last year's 10-4 finish in the Bay League. This will be a building year for the team which averages just under six feet per man.

South High will take Christmas vacation off, playing its final game before the two week break on Dec. 11 against Compton.

OPENING THE season on Friday night, Torrance walloped Fermin Lausen, 70 to 49, South High was out-gunning Aviation, 72 to 60; but North High was battered into submission by Beverly Hills.

Tomorrow, the Spartans will meet the Tartars in the Torrance gym in the second practice game of the season for both clubs. The contest will begin at 3 in the afternoon.

Colt League Plans Meet

Tordena Colt baseball league has held its first meeting of the season and selected its officers for the 1962 season.

"Whitey" Gilliland will serve the league as president, while Bill Korcheny and Sid Vines will work under him as vice presidents. Other positions are filled by Al Vaselenko, treasurer; Ken Scroggins, players agent; Carl Young, equipment manager; Mr. Keeley, head score keeper; and Harvey Casson, publicity director.

Tordondo Inspects Senior Loop Plans

Much interest has been shown in the recent Little League announcement that Senior Little League has been authorized by headquarters in order to provide organized baseball for boys 13, 14, and 5 years old. This senior group would be under the direct control of the local Little League, and would be headed by a director and a senior group

player agent. The four to eight teams would play under modified big league playing rules, on a diamond larger than that used by Little League players.

Al Pierson, president of Tordondo Little League, has wired league headquarters for additional information, in line with determining the probability of putting Senior Little League in operation this season.

There will be a general meeting for adults on Tuesday, Dec. 5, at Carl Steele School at 8 p.m. This meeting is open to the public.

The Tordondo board of directors have selected the major Little League managers for the 1962 season. All teams will have their 1961 managers returning except for the Tigers and Indians. Boyd Good was selected to manage the Tigers and Marion Heath will take over the Indians.

Serving for the next year will be: president, Nel Miller; vice president, Bill Nesenson; secretary, June Gaddbois; treasurer, Agnes Cagaanan; players agent, Ray Kibben; assistant players agent, Hoot Baker; field committee chairman, Sid Horon; field committee co-chairman, Harold Dean; equipment manager, Joe Higgins; score keeper, John O'Neil; ways and means, Doreen Weir; chief umpire, Harry Theodosis; and publicity, Roy Goree.

The league is composed of 10 teams for which it currently has eight managers. Two new managers are needed and anyone with baseball experience who would enjoy teaching the boys baseball and all-around good sportsmanship, the goal Babe Ruth baseball is striving for, should contact Nel Miller at FA 8-2670.

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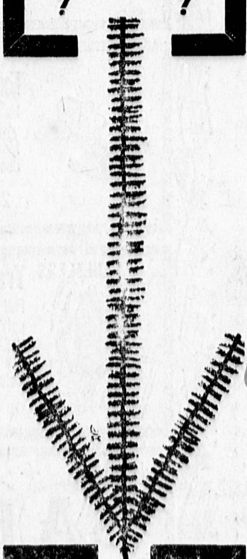
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