



AND THEY'RE OFF . . . Cross country runners from West and Torrance high schools start off on a tedious two-mile grind Friday in a Pioneer League meet won by the Warriors. Competing in its second season, West has lost only to probable circuit champion Aviation and appears headed toward a second-place finish. Injuries have been first-year coach Duane Lemon's main concern at Torrance. (Herald Photo)

FEARLESS SPECTATOR Ties Should Be Celebrated

By CHARLES McCABE, ESQ.

One doesn't ordinarily think of Mr. Don Drysdale, the fella who pitches for the Los Angeles Dodgers, as a moralist. But you would be wrong. Not only is he a moralist: He is, like most of the breed, more often than not a bit off-base.

Shortly before the World Series began, the Dodgers played a game which would have clinched the NL title for them, had they won. The Veuve Cliquot was iced in buckets in the locker room. The boys, including Mr. Drysdale, were crouched at the starting line for a bit of hoopla.

The Dodgers, alas, were shut out by Pittsburgh. The game guaranteed the Dodgers a sure tie for first place, but not the flag. No corks popped that day.

In the locker room Mr. Drysdale said, "You never celebrate a tie."

A tie has no great status in baseball, or in other sports. You don't pay off on one. As a hoary aphorism of sport has it, a tie is like kissing your sister.

Being older if not necessarily wiser than Mr. Drysdale, I go on record as saying I'll celebrate a tie anytime the Upstairs Dept. decides to award me one.

According to McCabe's Infallible Form, if you get a tie in the bumbling game of living, you're 'way ahead of it.

Damon Runyon figured life as a six-to-five proposition, against. Maybe his odds were generous, against.

How many of us who have cracked age 30 can honestly claim we're ahead, that we are riding easy, with the last water hole cleared and only the grass ahead?

Who will ever argue that the death of a child is not a greater loss than the child's birth was a gain? And yet who, after the death, would not have had the child.

Man is born to sorrow, and truer words were never spoken; but sorrow is simply the burden that accompanies the gift of life.

"The gift of life." How marvelously the phrase rings on a clear morning, with an orange sun rising over blue hills. The day, if it goes as days generally

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go, will leave you on the losing end. But you have had the day, the beauty and the gift of it.

I used to know a wonderful Puerto Rican gent—he's governor of that island now—who would take a big swig of rum, and look out at the sea from atop a mountain near San Juan, and pound his broad chest, and shout, "La vida es bueno."

Life is good. He pounded his chest whenever he thought that statement was true, which was often, though he is by nature a sad and much-used man.

There may be some few lucid souls who will cash in their chips truly ahead of the game, and for them I have admiration and love.

I'm not going to be one of them.

But if I come even close to a tie, I can tell you I'll be glad to spring for the grape—for the entire house. You can have champagne. I'll settle for a good Montrachet.

And on that happy day, should it ever occur, we may be drinking because we have had the wit, two or three times a day, to recall that life is a gift, and not a rumpled bed into which we have been thrown by fate.

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West Runners Rout Tartars

Junior cross country sensation Tom Jurco out-kicked Torrance's Larry Parker in the final 300 yards Friday afternoon in leading West High to a 19-44 (low score wins) Pioneer League triumph.

The league's top 600 man last season, Jurco pulled ahead of Parker with less than 300 yards remaining and finished 20 strides in front, stopping the clocks in 10:03.6. Parker trailed in 10:09.

West dominated the remaining eight top places as Dave Graham, 10:14; Lou Bisou, 10:15; Ron Pettigrew, 10:21; Dick Buchanan, 10:26; Bill Franz, 10:29; and Bob Clark, 10:32, followed Jurco.

Riddled with injuries this season, the unexpectedly weak

Tartars are completely out of a second-place spot in the league and West has stepped in to fill the runner-up position.

The Warriors made coach Bob Holtel's day a complete success by also sweeping the junior varsity and novice divisions.

In the junior varsity classification, Dan Richey led a perfect 15-50 West win by finishing in 10:26. Filling out the top five places for the Redskins were John Smith, 10:34; Mike

Sellers, 10:42; Howard McVay, 10:45; and John Jones, 10:51.

Jim Evans toured the West course in 10:51 as he paced an 18-46 Warrior triumph.

Freshman Mike Thomas was the only Tartar to stop West from grabbing the first five places. Thomas finished fourth, clocking 11:21.

Tom Johnston, 2nd in 11:02; Ken Gromberg, 3rd in 11:15; and Bill Herschler, 5th in 11:25 gave West enough impetus to corral its third victory of the afternoon.

Under the guidance of Holtel, the former Mira Costa track and cross country mentor, West has surprised its Pioneer League foes and dominated the small schools division in recent invitational meets.

Last weekend, the Warriors took a fourth varsity, second in junior varsity and third in the novice division at the Mount San Antonio Invitational.

Bisou was one of the big surprises for Holtel, grabbing 12th place in the varsity, five places ahead of Jurco. The top Tribe performance came from Pettigrew, who came off a sick bed to earn a first in junior varsity competition.

In the Long Beach Invitational, the Warrior varsity grabbed a second behind Salesian and brought home the first place trophy against junior varsity opposition as Bisou came through with a runner-up finish.

Diaz Joins Small Corp Of Athletes

Austin Dias of North Torrance has been selected by the University of California as one of its outstanding athletes and scholars.

A three-time letterman in football, Dias represented the Santa Barbara campus of the University of California in presentations made at halftime yesterday when UCLA hosted the Berkeley eleven.

UNIVERSITY of California President Clark Kerr presented Dias with a trophy in ceremonies that marked the ninth year the awards have been presented to outstanding athletes within the UC system.

Dias, of 20223 Hawthorne Ave., was honored for more than his athletic skill.

Scholastically, he has been an Experimental Program College Instructors Scholar, distinguished military graduate and a member of the Blue Key.

THE TORRANCE athlete, who is a Lieutenant Colonel in the ROTC and has won the military excellence award and the American Legion trophy for the outstanding athlete in ROTC, graduated with honors in June.

Nominations from the directors of athletics on the UC campuses are based on athletic ability, scholarship, integrity, sportsmanship, citizenship and leadership.



FLEET WARRIOR . . . Junior distance runner Tom Jurco led West High to a resounding Pioneer League cross country decision over cross-town rival Torrance on Friday. Jurco moved ahead of Torrance's Larry Parker with less than 300 yards remaining and was ahead by 20 strides at the finish. (Herald Photo)

SPORTS SCENE

Leuzinger Jarrs Inglewood In Crucial Sky Loop Tilt

Diminutive quarterback Eddie Pease directed undefeated Leuzinger to a 27-14 decision over Inglewood Friday night before 8,500 spectators at Sentinel Field as the Olympians remained atop the Sky League heap.

Pease, who carried a 10-yard per carry average into the contest, was hampered by a knee injury suffered against Morningside last week, but still managed to execute brilliant fakes and spring loose two big backs.

Inglewood scored first in the league elimination battle as Norm Boone found end Butch Hall with a 56-yard toss in the opening period.

Bouncing right back, Leuzinger recovered a punt on the Inglewood 34 and moved to

paydirt four plays later as Leigh Keicher went across from five yards out.

Before halftime, the Olympians tallied again, moving 79 yards in 11 plays with Pease slipping over on a keeper from one yard out just seconds before intermission.

Just as the fourth quarter got underway, Al Jones cracked the center for two yards and a TD to give Leuzinger a 20-7 lead and cap a lethal display of ball control by the Olympians.

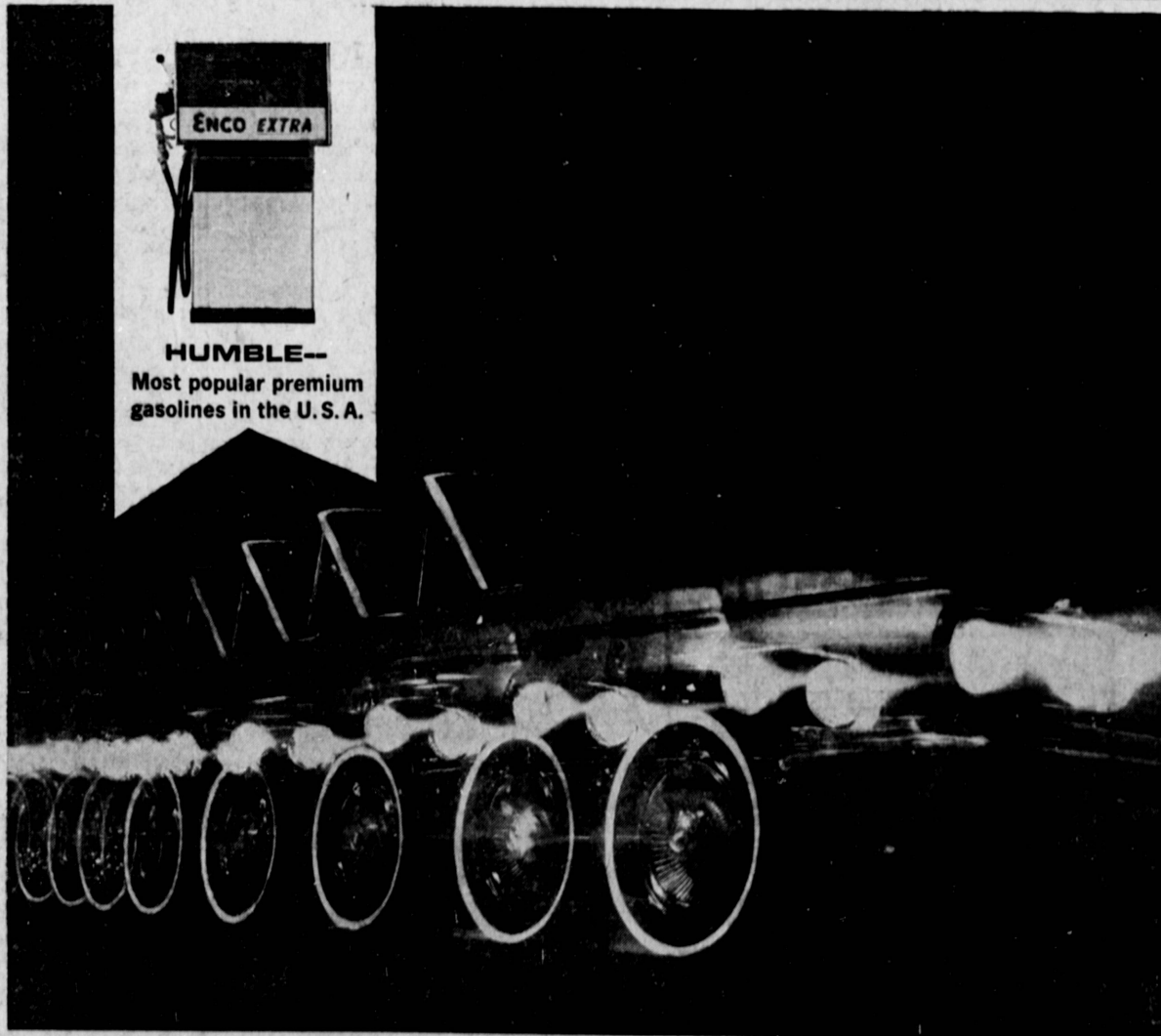
Leuzinger tacked on another score moments later when Randy McMichael intercepted a Boone aerial and returned it 37 yards for a touchdown.

In other Sky League action, Morningside snapped a year-long losing streak with a 13-6

triumph over Culver City. Larry Kriwaner and Dennis Love tallied in the second and third quarters to give MHS the win.

Aviation knocked Lennox out of the Pioneer League lead and grabbed a share of the spotlight itself with a 26-0 decision against the Lancers. The Falcons registered at least one score in each of the final three periods to register their second loop triumph against one tie.

Lawndale kept pace with Aviation, handing previous title contender El Segundo a 21-7 setback. Fullback Cal Petrick countered twice and halfback Terry Dozier contributed another six points as the Cards added their second win against a deadlock with Aviation.



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