

West in Early Pioneer Crucial

The Fearless Spectator



By Charles McCabe, Esquire

Except for those dear slightly specimens who claim that diamonds are a girl's best friend, there is no group of folk in our Brave New World more rewarded—or less deserving—than the bonus babies.

The bonus baby is an heroic youth, generally attending college, who because of physical freakishness and long practice, attains a considerable proficiency in playing with one kind of ball or another. Like footballs, or baseballs.

For this skill, and not because of their beautiful eyes, these boys are hunted down by the owners of pro football and baseball teams like they were trophy cheetahs or something.

For that period before they are signed up as indentured servants by the play-for-pay people, the bonus babies lead a gorgeously orgiastic life. They are so wooed and pursued that they may be forgiven for believing the sun shines solely for them.

The odd thing is that the bonus babies only rarely turn out as good as they were hoped to be, because pro sport is a considerably different thing from college sports, except maybe in large Midwest and Southern boiler-rooms of learning.

The San Francisco Giants a bit back paid \$150,000 for a pitcher who was the biggest thing since Genghis Khan while slinging for Santa Clara, but who got lost in a cave or something up at Tacoma last year. He is still a bit short of setting the world on fire.

The big bonus baby this year is footballer Scott Appleton, the all-American tackle from University of Texas. He recently signed up for four years of play with the Houston Oilers, and I can tell you the wooing was something to behold. Like all things Texan, it was considerably larger than life.

Mr. Appleton finally capitulated to the advances of the kindly Oiler management after getting a salary of \$21,000 a year for four years, a \$20,000 bonus for signing up, a filling station franchise near his home in Brady, Tex., cattle for his father's ranch, and a dealership representing a new chemical fodder process.

The package deal, not including the fringe benefits, totals \$104,000.

It's the fringe benefits, or side deals, which stand to yield him more, and which are lifelong assets. It may be argued that he will find enough sports-struck Texas millionaires to see to it that these fringe benefits are well-administered.

It may well be that, for his skill in football, Appleton has been made a millionaire for life.

Appleton's tale will undoubtedly inspire that segment of our youth who believe that the summum bonum of human achievement is to learn to play a sport so well that they can make a living at it.

These golden lads, these biceps nuts, are right on top of the Christmas tree in our culture; and whether you think this is the greatest thing to happen to us, depends on whether you are a practicing biceps nut or not.

To me this kind of reward for this kind of achievement reveals a vulgarity, and a paucity of intellectual and spiritual aspiration, of which we might be properly ashamed.

The kids who want to be plumbers, or poets, or school teachers, or bank clerks, or cable car conductors, are not likely to be enriched or elated by the news of Mr. Appleton's sensational success at so early an age. Some of 'em might get just mad enough to poke somebody in the nose.

Everybody has heard of school teachers who are good at their racket, who can communicate the excitement of learning; but I've never heard of Yale offering one of 'em a \$20,000 bonus and a couple of oil wells, for the benefit of their pearly vowels and academic credentials.

We all know that games are more important in our culture than the things which really support a people and make them great. Yet, even knowing that, I suggest the reward offered to Mr. Appleton for his at best meager talents is going a shade too far.

Camino To Host Valley

Has success slowed El Camino's baseball pennant express?

That seems to be the question asked by many warrior baseball followers, but the general consensus is "no."

The Warriors have been dealt four losses in five games after winning seven in a row. However, only two of the losses were suffered in Metropolitan Conference play. The other pair of defeats came in the first annual El Camino Easter Tournament, which Loyola won. The Warriors finished with a 1-2 tournament mark.

TOMORROW El Camino will try to get back on the winning track when it hosts Valley College at 2:30 p.m. Coach Chuck Freeman has nominated Larry Chastain, a sophomore left-hander, to start.

On Saturday, Freeman's nine faces a first-place showdown with San Diego, when the two teams engage in a noon double-header at Warrior Stadium. Scheduled to pitch in the twin bill are Jon Beck and Bob Dellzell.

The Warriors currently stand one game behind league-leading San Diego and Long Beach with a 4-2 record.

IN EL CAMINO'S last conference outing, the Vikings, defending league champions, dumped the Warriors in a double bill, 3-2 and 1-0.

The Warriors, in quest of their first conference title since 1959, received a stern blow this week when it learned Steve Woody, hard-hitting first baseman, will be out of action for at least three weeks with mononucleosis.

There is no admission charge to El Camino home games.

Tappa Kegs Will Begin Loop Play

The Torrance Tappa Kegs, perennially Southern California's finest slo-pitch team, will open West Coast Assn. play tomorrow night on the Torrance Park diamond against the Redondo Tully Bulls.

In their seven seasons of competition, the Kegs have compiled 198 wins against only 17 defeats. They have also earned 17 titles, including two Los Angeles crowns, two West Coast championships, and three Southern California pennants.

THE WEST COAST Slo-Pitch Assn. has grown to 9 teams this year with 32 games on tap during the month-long schedule. Entered are El Monte, Santa Ana, the Redondo Bouys, the Tappa Kegs, Gardena, the Redondo Tully Bulls, El Segundo, the Santa Ana Bombers and Manhattan.

Tomorrow night's game will be a doubleheader, as will all Tappa Kegs games this year.

Dave Hayward, Redondo Beach councilman, will serve as president for the West Coast Assn.

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GREGG PETERSON, Sports Editor

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GOLD CUP INAUGURAL

Calif. Racing Assn. Set To Begin Ascot Park Year

More than 50 top Southern California sprint car drivers will help kick off the 1964 California Racing Assn. season Saturday night in a 100-lap Inaugural Gold Cup race at Ascot Park in Gardena.

The 50-mile feature for Indianapolis-type big cars will feature a program that also includes a trophy dash and four heat races.

The first event will begin at 8:30 p.m. with qualifying at 7 p.m.

HEADING THE list of entries shooting for the gold cup and an early lead in the CRA point standings will be defending point champion Bob Hogle.

Allen Heath, Ray Douglas, Bob Coulter, Art Pratt, Les Crawford and Don Milton are also expected to be prime contenders.

Sunday night at Ascot, the Figure-8 stock cars take over in an Automobile Racing Assn. event. Last week, the

first of the ARA season, over 4,000 fans watched Ed Ferro of Torrance win the 25-lap feature ahead of Dennis Meisenzahl.

Barbara Sauer of Redondo Beach won the unique eight-lap duel for the gals.

The main event was almost all Torrance. Jim Lippen, Bob Church and Dexter Mason, all of this city, followed Ferro and Meisenzahl to the finish.

In a 15-lap semi-main, Church finished second and Lippen third behind Bob Hobbs of Gardena.

Also last weekend at Ascot, Jim Cook survived a torrid finish by Clem Proctor to win the California Jockey Assn. 50-lap open stock car main event.

COOK, DRIVING a Ford, won handily over Proctor, in a Plymouth. Proctor battled his way from 21st in a 22-car field to second at the checkered flag.

In the other CJA main event, run before 2,500 spectators, Ray Tucker was the winner over Chuck Conrad in the 25-lap flathead race.

The next CJA program at Ascot will be run for stock cars, flatheads and claimers on Sunday, April 12.

Southwood Sets General Meeting

The Southwood Little League Board of Directors will host a general meet at 8 p.m. today at Anza School, 21400 Ellinwood Dr.

Good sportsmanship among little leaguers will be discussed and a speaker from the 7-Up Foundation will show a baseball film by Walt Disney.

Warriors Battle Weather, Lennox For Loop Lead

Weather permitting, West High and Lennox will stage an early Pioneer League baseball showdown today at 3 p.m. on the Warrior diamond.

Both clubs will carry perfect 2-0 league marks into the fray. West skipper Max Lomas will start unbeaten junior John Marsden.

All scheduled Pioneer, Bay and Sky league games were rained out on Tuesday. They will be played at the end of the season.

Sophomore Ron Olguin will open on the mound for North today at 3 p.m. as the Saxons attempt to maintain their Sky League lead against Beverly Hills. North is unbeaten in circuit play following games with Morningside and Culver City.

VETERAN Bob Battaglia is Dale Walker's probable starting chucker at Torrance High. The Tartars, with a 0-2 Pioneer League mark, will travel to Lawndale.

Torrance finished in fourth place in the first annual Thousand Oaks Tournament during Easter vacation. The Tartars dropped a 3-2, 8-inning decision to Simi Valley in the third place contest.

South High, the Bay League's surprise team, will shoulder a 2-0 mark against Santa Monica today. The Spartans will have Dale St. John on the mound. Samo will host the 3 p.m. encounter.

SWITCHING to track, South and Mira Costa are scheduled to hook up in a Bay League titanic tomorrow at 3 p.m. on the Michi oval.

Also tomorrow, North and Beverly Hills will tangle on the Saxon track, and Torrance will journey to Aviation for a Pioneer clash. West will visit Lawndale to finish out the spike slate.

Spartans Continue In Tourney

South High will continue the confused and delayed Hawthorne Easter baseball tournament on Saturday at 10 a.m. against Lawndale.

A possible chance for the championship will hang in the balance as the two clubs continue a game called after 11 innings last week with the score knotted at 1-1.

El Segundo won its bracket and will definitely play in the championship game Saturday night. If South beats Lawndale, the Spartans will be tied with Morningside and Leuzinger for the other championship berth.

THE THREE clubs would all have 2-1 tourney records and the team with the most offensive runs would meet El Segundo. Morningside currently has 11 offensive tallies, and South and Leuzinger have 8.

In order to go into the finals, South, the home team against Lawndale, although the game will be played on the Cardinal diamond, must score at least three more runs.

Should South win without scoring three runs, it would meet Redondo at 1 p.m. Saturday on the Redondo diamond for third place. If the Spartans lose, they will go against Hawthorne, at HHS, at 1 p.m. Saturday for fifth place.

El Camino Net Team Eyes Title

With their first Metropolitan Conference tennis championship in sight, El Camino College netmen will host Bakersfield College tomorrow at 2:30 p.m.

Tomorrow's match will be a prelude to Tuesday's contest between El Camino and the powerful USC Frosh squad.

Based on first-half results and barring unforeseen difficulties, El Camino should easily sweep into the conference championship.

IN THE first round of play, the Warriors annihilated all opposition, holding five of seven opponents scoreless and allowing only a total of three points. Bakersfield dropped a 7-2 decision to the Tribe while San Diego lost, 8-1.

San Diego was expected to furnish the major opposition for Camino, and although the Knights could only score one point, ECC coach Paul Manahan is still leery.

"They are a lot tougher than the match indicated," he feels. Manahan cited the home court advantage as a potential factor in favor of San Diego when the two colleges meet again on April 10.

The home court advantage could mean a difference of as much as one point per individual match, according to Manahan, but, the Camino mentor still rates his squad "better in every position than San Diego."

Freshman Terry Ehlers, formerly of Mira Costa, has replaced Jamie Colloco as top man on the Camino roster. George Deeb and Bob Benson join Ehlers as first-year men in the starting lineup.

Irvin Bledstein and Dave Cox, both freshmen, have earned a place as the third doubles team.

Colt Loop Will Hold Tryouts

Tryouts and late registration for the Peninsula Colt League will be held Saturday and again April 11 at 9:30 a.m. on the Colt League field on Crenshaw Boulevard between Rolling Hills Road and Palos Verdes Drive North.

Boys who missed an earlier sign-up may register this Saturday if they are accompanied by one parent and bring a birth certificate.

The league is limited to boys in the Pacific Riviera Pony League area who were born between Aug. 1, 1947 and July 31, 1949.

Contact President Bill Garbanati at FR 5-4319, Vice President Bob Sleeth at FR 5-3250 or Player's Agent Don St. John at FR 5-0865 for further information.

Bowling Clinic For Children Begins Saturday

A free bowling clinic for visually handicapped children 10 years old and under will begin Saturday under the guidance of the National Fifty and Over Bowling Club.

The clinic will be held at Rose Lanes Bowl, 2030 Rosecrans Blvd., Gardena, from 10 a.m. until noon on Saturdays. The National Fifty and Over Bowling Club recently became a part of President Johnson's Council on Physical Fitness.

ON MONDAY

Torrance Rod and Gunners To Meet at McMaster Park

The Torrance Rod and Gun Club will meet Monday, April 6, at McMaster Park at 8 p.m. March was a busy month for the Rod and Gunners. At the biggest event of the month, the annual Rafu barred perch derby, Torrance president Fred Bicker took a first place and Carl Hanni earned a fourth. Over 500 anglers were entered.

Junior members of the Torrance club walked off with three first places in a barred perch derby with the Gardena Rod and Gun Club juniors. Alan Lund took first place with a 2 pound, 7 ounce catch while David Hlaoral earned a second and Mark Goettsch a third.

A Bull Bass Derby, scheduled at the breakwater, was temporarily postponed due to rain. Al Coast is currently leading the bass hunters with an 8 pound, 4 ounce catch.

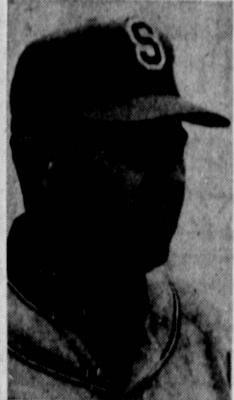
whipped the locals, 85, 84, 83, 82, in a five-man trap shoot. High man for the Torrance squad was Bill Mata with an 84. A rematch will take place in April.

PAUL SMITH broke 25 straight from the 22-yard-line recently in a Las Vegas trap shoot to finish among the country's top pigeon breakers.

At the club's last meeting, Torrance Councilman Nick Drale provided a 50-minute film on the "Highlights of the 1963 World Series."



TOP MAN . . . Carson High first-sacker Ralph Alegria, an All-Marine League selection last year, will lead the Colts against Jordan today at 3 p.m. Carson will host the league contest. The Colts have a 1-0 loop mark to date while Jordan stands 0-1.



JERRY McILVAINE Head South Coach