

# North Will Defend Sky Lead

TORRANCE HERALD

## Sports

APRIL 16, 1964 GREGG PETERSON, Sports Editor 37

### The Fearless Spectator

By

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As the sap rises in the maples my thoughts turn, as usual, to The Loser of the Year, a distinction gleefully conferred each year by this column, and generally received by the honoree with a high degree of apathy.

This lad is singled out as an inspiration to us here losers the fellows who laugh when they should be making love, and try to make love when they should be laughing. We are also called the salt of the earth—by those great, successful lads who pour us, with infinite adroitness, for their own good.

The Loser of the Year last year was Mr. Willie McCovey, who was frustrated in his intention of winning the 1962 World Series against the Yankees by the glove of one Bobby Richardson.

Willie ALMOST became the greatest man in the world. He took his failure to achieve this pinnacle with his customary good grace, and went on to ALMOST become the home-run king of the National League by hitting 44 of same. Unfortunately, a man named Aaron hit the same number.

The world of baseball is rich in losers, and this year the Loser of the Year comes from its ranks.

His name is Harry James Bright, born Kansas City, Mo., Sept. 22, 1929. Bats right, throws right, height 6 feet, weight 190 pounds. Job: utility infielder for the New York Yankees.

Before that day in 1963 when Harry achieved greatness as a loser, he already had impressive credentials along these lines. Twice he had batted .000 in the National League. In 1960, playing for the Cincinnati Reds, he was used as a pinch hitter once and lost riotously, leaving his average a clean zero for the season.

His moment of true greatness came later in 1963 when he had been traded to the champion New York Yankees. Harry had had a pretty good year with the Yanks, playing 60 games at first and third, hitting seven homers and coming out of the year with a batting average of .236.

Then came that fateful first game of the World Series, with Sandy Koufax racking up an incredible number of strikeouts for a Series contest. Koufax struck out two in the ninth, tying the Series record.

Only one man stood between Sandy and a Series strikeout record. The fates, and the Yankee management, ordained the man should be Harry James Bright.

Bright had played his first major league game when Koufax was a kid of 10 in Brooklyn. He had never batted before in a World Series game. This was a setup beyond compare for a guy with any talent at all for losing.

Though the game was played in Yankee Stadium, and the home team was three runs behind, there were 69,000 people in the stands rooting fiendishly for Koufax and against Bright. If Koufax didn't strike Bright out, every man in the stands would have felt he had somehow failed to make it. But bad.

The count went to 2-2, including a grounder that had those 69,000 maniacs cheering because it went foul. That kept Harry from being the victim of an infield putout instead of a whiff.

Before an audience rapt with hostility Harry finally swung at a fast ball and missed it, going down gloriously. The biggest roar of the year went up from the stadium. Whether it was gratitude for Bright's achievement as a loser or elation at Koufax's achievement as a winner will never be known. Which is just as well.

### Masuyama Saves Win For North

Freshman Daryl Masuyama refused to respect his elders Tuesday afternoon and propelled North High's horsehiders to a 9-8 Sky League win over Culver City.

Masuyama, taking over where his elders had failed, threw three innings of scoreless relief ball while his teammates came up with a run in the bottom of the seventh to win their fourth circuit contest in six starts.

Seniors Doug Jackson and Paul Romero were soundly battered on the mound before Masuyama took over to increase his league record to 3-1. Masuyama allowed only one hit while fanning three and walking one.

JACKSON STARTED for North and gave up five runs in 2 1/3 innings of work. Romero hurled the next 1 2/3 frames and was tagged for four hits and three earned runs.

Speed on the basepaths, in the form of sprinter Dave Rance, paid off in the seventh inning for North. Rance, who doubles as a trackman, walked, stole second and came all the way home on a throwing error.

Culver City forced North to come from behind for three innings, until the Saxons came up with four tallies in the fourth frame to knot the count.

After Culver had scored once in the opening frame, North came back with a run of its own as Butch Nickloff walked, stole second and came home on a two-base throwing error.

In the third inning with Culver holding a 5-1 edge, NHS drove over three more runs. Nickloff slammed a 400 ft. home run into right field to open the inning.

BILL CUNERTY and Joe DeLuca hit back-to-back singles and Cunerty scored when Dennis Irelan was safe on an error. Rance then walked and DeLuca tallied on a walk to Gene Barnatt.

Culver rammed over three runs in the fourth inning, but North slipped four more over to tie the score.

### City to Open Registration For Softball

Registration is currently open for the Torrance Recreation Department's 10-inch softball program designed for grade-school-age boys.

Three leagues are available for boys between 7 and 13 years old. Boys are asked to contact McMaster, El Retiro, Waleria, Torrance, La Romero or Paradise parks to register.

Parent permits are required before a boy is permitted to play. Youngsters may sign up as an individual or with a complete team. League play will begin during the first week in May and continue through June.

On Saturday at 10 a.m. at Waleria and McMaster parks, baseball skill day will be presented. Boys will participate in bunting, batting, running the bases and throwing for distance.



BY A STEP . . . Alan Johnson, North High's sprinter-long jumper, edged Santa Monica's Boots Monroe for fourth-place in the 100-yard dash last Friday in the annual Inglewood Relays. Johnson has a best of 10.1 seconds in the century and owns a leap of 22 ft. 3 in. in the long jump. He will lead the Saxons against Leuzinger tomorrow afternoon in a Sky League battle. (Herald Photo)

### TOMORROW AFTERNOON

## Carson's Jaramillo to Face Unbeaten San Pedro Miler

Unbeaten Carson High miler Javier Jaramillo will face his toughest competition of the year tomorrow afternoon when the Colts host San Pedro in a Marine League track meet.

Jaramillo, who has a 4:31.0 best, will face the City's top miler in unbeaten Ken Roberts. Robert's has the City's best clocking for the four laps in 4:23.3, which unofficially snapped the old Marine League mark of 4:23.6.

The new Carson mile standard came in last week's 54 1/2-49 1/2 loss to Gardena. Carson fell in all three divisions as the Colt Bee team bowed, 80-12, and the Cees lost, 58 1/2-27 1/2.

Al Dominguez also set a

Carson record in the Gardena meet, running the 1320 in 3:26.5 for a new Bee standard.

Four other Torrance spike squads will get back into circuit action after taking last Friday off for the 25th annual Inglewood Relays.

SOUTH AND NORTH, which fared the best of Torrance entries in the relays, will both face rugged league assignments. South will host Palos Verdes while North will travel to Leuzinger.

North must currently rank as the Sky League's second-finest squad. The Saxons were narrowly beaten by Morningside

in the opening circuit meet of the season.

However, Leuzinger perennially fields one of the Southland's finest cinder squads.

Sprinter-long jumper Alan Johnson will be North's key man. Johnson has a 100-yard dash best of 10.1 seconds and turned in a 22-foot broad jump performance at Inglewood.

Bob Hansen, who has yet to be beaten this season in the half mile, will attempt to bring his mark under two minutes for the Saxons. Hansen is only a junior.

South also turned in an impressive varsity performance at Inglewood. The Spartans, led by Doug Hall and Wes Fox, won medals in three events while Fox is gunning for South school records in the 220 and 440.

TORRANCE AND West high schools should both have easier pickings in Pioneer League meetings tomorrow. West will travel to El Segundo with Torrance is hosting Lennox.

West's strength rests primarily with junior Tom Jurco and Ron Pettigrew. Jurco owns the Warrior 880 standard while Pettigrew boasts the mile record and has yet to be bested in the four-lapper this season.

### Saxons to Open Two-Game Stand With Leuzinger

North High will place its slim Sky League horsehide lead on the line this afternoon and tomorrow in two-game series with dangerous Leuzinger.

The Saxons moved into the circuit lead on Tuesday when they beat Culver City while Inglewood was losing to

Morningside. North owns a 4-2 circuit record while Inglewood stands at 4-3. Beverly Hills, Leuzinger and Morningside remain at 3-3.

Saxon mentor Jim O'Brien will as usual depend on his youthful mound staff to pull out a win. Either Dave McCormick or Ron Olguin, both sophomores, will open on the hill.

West High, still very much in the running for the Pioneer crown, will have two-time winner Dave LaRoche on the hill against Lawndale today on the Cardinal diamond.

AVIATION dropped a 5-4, 10-inning decision to West Tuesday afternoon as the Warriors ran their league record to 4-2. El Segundo leads the loop with a 6-1 mark with Lennox second at 5-2.

South will host Redondo today at 3 p.m. and the Spartans must win to remain in the Bay League title picture.

Redondo is currently atop the league with a 6-2 record, while South, after a strong beginning, has fallen to fourth place with a 3-4 mark.

Spartan coach has tabbed Ray Allen to open on the mound. Allen has a 1-2 league record.

The Spartans dropped a 7-3 decision to Redondo on Tuesday in the first of their two-game series.

A six-game Pioneer League losing streak will be on the line for Torrance High today when Les Dutcher steps to the hill against Aviation.

Bishop Montgomery after a disappointing 4-3 loss to Fermin Lasuen on Tuesday, must win today against St. Monica to keep alive his hopes for a Camino Real League crown.

### El Segundo Nips THS To Gain League Lead

El Segundo moved ahead of the Pioneer League baseball pack Tuesday afternoon with a 4-3 decision over Torrance High.

The Eagles pushed over one run in each of the first three innings and added their final tally in the fifth stanza to hand Torrance its sixth consecutive circuit loss. The Tartars have yet to present first-year coach Dale Walker with a Pioneer victory.

Torrance collected 10 safeties off two Eagle hurlers, but five errors hurt the losers.

Starting El Segundo chucker Steve Wright was socked for nine safeties but wound up with the victory. Wright whiffed 14 men. Ker Brett, a sophomore, relieved Wright when Torrance threatened with two out in the final

frame and snuffed out the THS rally.

Veteran Bob Battaglia picked up the loss although he only allowed eight hits in a full seven innings of work. Battaglia walked three and struck out six.

Phil Crofton attempted to pull the game out for Torrance with a two RBI performance. Crofton doubled in two runs for the losers in the fifth frame.

Keith Patton went 2 for 2 at the dish. Phil Hull went 2 for 3 and Rod White 2 for 4 to back up Crofton.

Prior to Tuesday's game, El Segundo had been tied with Lennox for the circuit lead. But Lennox dropped a 3-2 decision to arch-foe Lawndale. 'Gundo now has a 6-1 mark with Lennox at 5-2.



YOUNG FLIER . . . South High's sophomore sprinter Ted Pettipiece, who led the Spartan Cee team to victory in the Inglewood Relays Friday night, will compete in the varsity division tomorrow afternoon when SHS hosts Palos Verdes in a Bay League dual meet. (Herald Photo)

### WALKS COSTLY

## Lasuen Overhauls Knights For Tenth Inning Triumph

Five walks in the top half of the 10th inning cost Bishop Montgomery a 4-3 Camino Real League horsehide loss to Fermin Lasuen Tuesday afternoon.

John Wojcik, in relief of Irl Davis, issued the five free passes that cost Montgomery its second defeat in five circuit starts. Wojcik gave up three walks before Lasuen had a man picked off attempting to steal home. Two more free passes forced in the go-ahead tally.

Earlier, errors had cost Montgomery three runs. In the fourth frame, the Knights com-

mitted three bobbles to allow three Lasuen runs across.

Montgomery scored first, going ahead in the third inning. Bill Brown singled and stole second and Davis walked. Pete Maccarrone hit a hard shot to third base and Brown was forced out. A wild attempt to catch Maccarrone at first resulted in the Montgomery runners moving to second and third. Davis and Maccarrone then pulled a double steal, with Davis going home.

In the sixth inning, Montgomery scored again on another double steal and a squeeze play. Tony Guggiana walked and Dennis Blackburn

hit to third base. The throw to first was wild and Guggiana went to third and Blackburn to second. A double steal brought Guggiana home and Blackburn to third.

Dave Hunt then dropped a perfect sacrifice bunt to squeeze Blackburn across.

The first nine innings constituted a pitcher's battle. Davis gave up five hits, walked seven and struck out six while not giving up an earned run.

Jim Chuka, who went the full 10 frames to pick up the decision, gave up only two hits while whiffing six and walking an equal number. Chuka did not allow an earned run.

### TENTH-INNING WIN

## West Nine Edges Aviation; Keeps Pennant Hopes Alive

A squeeze bunt in the bottom of the 10th inning by West High catcher Dennis Dodd brought Gary Loyd home and gave the Warriors a 5-3 Pioneer League baseball win over Aviation.

West, still in position for the Pioneer pennant, won when Loyd doubled, stole second on a close play, and came home on Dodd's perfect bunt.

In the ninth inning, the visiting Falcons pushed over a pair of tallies and forced West to come from behind and knot the score.

Winning pitcher Earl Foster opened the Warrior ninth with a double and bounced across the plate on a triple by Jim Barnes. Barnes then tied the score when Dick Buchanan reached first base on an error. Foster picked up the de-

cision although he threw for only one inning. He came in to relieve Dave LaRoche and held Aviation scoreless in the top of the 10th.

LaRoche relieved starter John Marsden after seven innings and allowed two earned runs while fanning four and walking six.

West opened the scoring in the second inning when LaRoche walked, went to second on a sacrifice by Dodd, and came home on a single by Barnes.

The Warriors pushed their edge to 2-0 in the fourth inning when Marsden led off with a 350-foot home run into right centerfield.

Aviation bounced back with one run in the fifth and one in the seventh to send the

game into extra innings. The Falcons added their final tallies in the top of the ninth stanza.

Barnes wound up with two RBIs after going 3 for 4 at the dish for West. Dodd picked up one RBI as did Marsden with his homer.

Steve Willis allowed three earned runs in two innings of work for Aviation and picked up the loss. Sam Espinosa started for the Falcons and lasted eight innings, allowing two runs and six hits.

Errors, three of them, accounted for three of Aviation's unearned tallies.

Victory left West with a 4-2 circuit mark while defeat left Aviation, the defending Pioneer and CIF "AA" division champ, with a 1-5 loop record.