

The Sporting View

BY BOB LUPO

An ex-pole vaulter who got his coaching start at Torrance High is facing the biggest test of his first major-league season in a couple of weeks, and if his past record is any indication, he'll come through with top marks.

Verne Wolfe, who used to pole vault at SC in the pre-fiberglass days, coached at Torrance High for three years in 1952-53-54, then moved to North Phoenix, where he produced the first 15-foot prep vaulter (also without fiberglass) and other phenoms. After that, Verne spent three years at Foot-hill JC in Northern California, where he produced a whole flock of marvels, some of whom might be helping the Trojans for a year or two.

MOST PRIZED BERTH

Then, suddenly last June, Verne got the most

prized berth in track coaching — the Trojan job. He was named to replace the late Jess Mortensen, who died just before the 1962 season started. Jess Hill, athletic director and former track coach, took the reins on an interim basis in 1962, and suffered the blame for Troy's first peacetime dual meet loss in 29 years — to Oregon — and also loss of SC's national title.

There wasn't much anybody could have done about that last year. Oregon had one of the dream teams of all time — perhaps the dreamiest.

But this year Oregon lost a few of those boys — among them Jerry Tarr, Harry Jerome and Daryl Burleson — and bad weather held the Webfoots back in training.

A NEAR MISS

Wolfe took SC up there early in the year and won a dual meet at Eugene — Oregon Coach Bill Bowman's first loss at home.

Then SC almost came a cropper with Stanford's surprising crew, and on a rainy day, the Trojans' name almost became mud. On a gooey track that reduced all runners to an even footing, more or less, Wolfe's men slipped in by a 73-72 margin. Only the fact that a Stanford triple jumper, a sure pointwinner, had departed for the day, thinking the meet was canceled, gave SC the victory. The meet, incidentally, was held at Foot-hill JC, Wolfe's previous post.

Since then the Trojans have developed steam, and last week won the Big Six meet with tough Stanford a solid second.

ANYBODY COULD WIN?
In two weeks Wolfe goes into his first NCAA meet the favorite for the team title. He has six or seven men who might win individual titles. But Oregon, Stanford and Villanova, among others, have enough depth to pull off an upset.

And Wolfe, after all, is like Ralph Houk with the Yankees. If he wins, even in his first big battle, everyone will say, "Ho hum, what do you expect? Anybody could win with those guys?"

And if he loses, the cry will be "What a bum!" A look at the record indicates Wolfe hasn't been called a bum very often.

There aren't many Houk rooters in Torrance, but we imagine there'll be quite a few Wolfe cries on June 15.

Strikeout Ace Larry Brown Whiffs 13

The Dominguez Water Co. Cubs, with strikeout king Larry Brown on the mound to stifle the Quinn's Dairy Braves, won another contest, 1-0. Brown added 13 strikeouts to his pitching record for a season total of sixty-four. The lone run was scored by a home run swat by Tommy Fischer, Tony Kelich and Jerome Kurtik were the heartbreak Braves pitchers with Gary Hulsey doing the catching. Tommy's kid brother, did the catching for the Cubs.

The Marina Federal Sav-tigers were losing to the Elwood Nursery Dodgers until Bruce MacEachern came to bat with the bases loaded and put one over the fence for a home run and put the game on ice. The final score was 6-2. Greg Keister, the winning pitcher, gave up only four hits and struck out 11. George Sharp hit a home run for the Dodg-ers.

The Salby Mobil Gas Senators won a 3-2 contest against the Record Brothers Carpets Indians. Greg Loney accounted for all three runs with a home run blast. Neil Sorenson, the winning pitcher, struck out 13. Wayne Larson was his catcher. John Walker, the Indian pitcher, lost the game after an incredible 16 strikeouts. Mike Skinner was his receiver. Jim Simpson tried to keep the Indians in the fight with a single and double.

The 7-Up Yankees beat the Dodgers 4 to 1. Donnie Shockley was the winning pitcher and hit a triple to help his cause. Gary Palmer and Bruce Netherly shared the catching duties.

MINOR LEAGUE ACTIVITY: Jensen's Rentals Red Sox edged the Kenfurn Draperies Orioles, 13-11. Terry Keene and Bobby Dunn shared the mound for the Sox with Terry Field and Mike Savoia doing the catching. The Oriole battery was Sonny Pettit and Arlo Hagen. John Kirk led the bat-tling attack for the Sox with two doubles.

The Red Sox board of strategy, the Dunn Brothers, came up with important moves when they sent Larry Keene to pinch hit a single and drive in two runs, and then had Mark Wilkie pinch hitting a double to drive in three runs. Paul Ricketts of the Red Sox came up with the defensive play of the day when he made an unassisted double play with the bases loaded to cut-off an Oriole rally.

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McEWEN TOPS LIONS DRAG STRIP FUEL ELIMINATOR RACE FIELD

Tom McEwen, Dragster Driver of the Year in 1962, is favored to win the fuel eliminator event Saturday night at Lions Drag Strip in Long Beach.

McEwen, who last year

CARSON SETS LL SIGNUPS JUNE 1, 8

The new Carson Little League will have registration and tryouts June 1 and 8, both Saturdays, from noon to 4 p.m. at Carson High School.

Boys 8 to 12 years of age may register. To be eligible, the boys must live within the league boundaries, have proof of birth-date, and be accompanied by parents or guardian at registration. League boundaries are Carson on the north, Pacific Coast Highway on the south, Wil-mington Ave. on the east, and Harbor Freeway, west.

won more top eliminator titles than any other driver at Lions Drag Strip, will be racing against some of the fastest dragsters in California.

Don Moody of Santa Monica will be one of McEwen's toughest competitors, along with Jack Ewell of Torrance, Jeep Hampshire of San Fernando, Larry Faust of Long Beach and more than 50 other dragsters.

In gas eliminator, Danny Ongais of Honolulu, racing the Dragmaster Dart; Zane Shubert of Santa Ana and George Bolthoff of Burbank are among the contestants.

The Lions Club sponsored strip is located right at Alameda Street off-ramp of the San Diego Freeway in the North Long Beach area.

Qualifying begins at 2:30 p.m. and eliminations at 7 p.m.

An all-stock car meet will be held Sunday from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at Lions Drag Strip.

DAVIS, CLARK RATE EDGE IN CJA RACE

CJA's Ford convertible team, entered by stock car drivers Gene Davis, Venice, and Joe Clark, Los Angeles, rank as pre-race favorites to sweep CJA's 9-event stock car program, Sunday afternoon at Western Speedway, 1337 W. 139th St. in Gardena.

Davis, currently, the number one stock car driver in CJA's championship standings for '63, will seek to increase his lead over runner-up Lloyd Dane, Buena Park, Dane, on the other hand, will attempt to narrow Davis' lead, driving Jess Rivera's '56 Chevrolet.

Clark, scoreless going into Sunday afternoon's racing program, will seek his first major victory of the season, and is a heavy favorite among the fans.

Other drivers readying their cars for the stock car speedfest include Clem Proctor, Paramount tavern owner; Dodge; Jimmy Smith, Buena Park, making his fifth start in a '56 Chevrolet; former CJA stock car champion "Wild Bill" Foster, Newhall, and three-time NASCAR late-model stock car titleholder "Steady Eddie" Gray, Gardena. Oldsmobiles; Eddie Kusch, Compton, Hudson; and from Norwalk, Jim Cook and Jim Blomgren, piloting a pair of Fords.

Qualifying gets underway at 1:00 p.m., followed by the first race at 2:30 p.m. A 35-lap main event tops the afternoon's racing.

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c. T-strap in white or Italian tan. Airfoam heel-to-toe. Sizes 4-10. REDUCED TO **1⁷⁷**

d. Double buckle sandal. In white with cushion insole. Sizes 4-10. REDUCED TO **1⁷⁷**

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