

# Metro Chase

In contrast to a year ago, when Long Beach swept aside all opposition, five formidable teams appear to be the top contenders in the 1968 Metropolitan Conference basketball race.

The defending champion Vikings seized their second straight conference crown with an undefeated record of 14-0.

But a fierce struggle is shaping up for conference honors this season with Cerritos, Santa Monica, Bakersfield, Valley, and Long Beach rated as top threats to grab the title.

In the first round next Friday night, the key game pits Long Beach against the host Bakersfield Renegades. In other games, Rio Hondo travels to Valley, El Camino entertains Cerritos, and East Los Angeles journeys to Santa Monica.

Saturday's schedule is Valley at Santa Monica, East Los Angeles at Cerritos, Bakersfield at El Camino, and Long Beach at Rio Hondo.

Both Long Beach and Cerritos have lost only one game each, while Bakersfield, Santa Monica, and Valley all sport 11-4 records.

And as the race enters the first round, there are three new head coaches in the conference. They are Bill Nelson at Bakersfield, Bob Dye at Santa Monica, and Gordon Naslund at East Los Angeles.

School-by-school rundown in order of record compiled:

**CERRITOS** (Jim Killingsworth, 15-1) — The Falcons, champions of the Chaffey Tournament and Modesto Tournament, have lost only to Pasadena (59-52) in the Sam Barry Tournament. Cerritos boasts great height with such skyscrapers as Paul Ruffner (6-9), Bob Horn (6-7), John Van Fleet (6-6), Al Dean (6-6), Fred Ziter (6-5), and Jim Lefler (6-4½).

Ruffner, a fine marksman, is one of the class junior college cagers in the state. Besides its scoring ability, the Norwalk team is tough on defense.

Killingsworth rates this year's conference race as the closest in his four years at Cerritos.

**LONG BEACH** (Chuck Kane, 12-1) — Following their brilliant 1967 season, the Vikings suffered tremendous graduation losses. Mack Calvin is a starter at USC, Trent Gaines is a starter at Cal, Carey Bailey is a starter at West Virginia, Joe Ware is the leading scorer at Cal State Fullerton.

In all, nine sophomores received scholarships at four-year schools.

Still, Long Beach has the material to make a run for a third consecutive title. The team is built around returning lettermen Ken Booker (6-4) and Shawn Johnson (6-3), and possesses good speed, good team rebounding, quickness and fine shooting.

Its only loss, in the second game, was to Orange Coast. Long Beach has defeated Pasadena.

**BAKERSFIELD** (Bill Nelson, 11-4) — If the Renegades can eliminate costly mistakes and take full advantage of their sizeable front line, they'll be tough to beat. Center Steve Smith is 6-8, while the forwards are veteran Roy Jones (6-6) and Andy Hill (6-3).

Hill is a fine shooter and is averaging 23 points per game. Nelson coached last year at Arvin High School near Bakersfield. His record there last season was 21-5.

**SANTA MONICA** (Bob Dye, 11-4)—Sidney Wicks, acknowledged by many as the outstanding junior college cager in California, makes the Corsairs a tremendous threat in the conference. The 6-8 All-City player from Hamilton High School, is a deadly rebounder, possesses exceptional moves, and is averaging more than 20 points a game so far.

He has a solid supporting cast in forwards Elliot Levin (6-4), transfer from Oregon State) and Larry Miller (6-5), who played for Santa Monica two seasons ago.

Sid's older brother, Stanley Wicks (6-1) plays guard for the Corsairs.

**VALLEY** (Dan Means, 11-4)—Only lack of a towering center prevents Valley from being a devastating aggregation. Pivotman Don Oldenkamp is 6-4.

Also on the front line are Al Shumate (6-5) and Morris Thomas (6-3), a fabulous jumper. Main strength of the team is rebounding, speed, shooting.

At guard, Rich Reid is a veteran and one of the conference's leading scorers a year ago.

**RIO HONDO** (Len Craven, 5-9)—Ineligibilities of key men have dampened the Roadrunners' hopes, but they have one of the most prolific jaysee scorers in the state—Greg Rouchon, a forward who has averaged 26 points a game so far.

Rouchon (6-3) is joined on the front line by center Bob Ballou (6-6) and Bruce Benson (6-4). Lack of consistent defensive rebounding has hurt Rio Hondo's chances in pre-conference games.

**EL CAMINO** (George Stanish, 4-7)—Run, run, run is the formula the fast-breaking Warriors are using to offset their inexperience.

There is only one sophomore on the starting team—guard Walt Bentley.

Center Darrell Daniel (6-5) is a good rebounder. Forwards are Edgar Chiltonham (6-5) and Jerry Turner (6-3). Over all, El Camino has potential. The team should be increasingly effective as the freshmen gain confidence and know-how.

**EAST LOS ANGELES** (Gordon Naslund, 3-11)—Scrappy East Los Angeles figures to give a good account of itself despite its record, which is deceiving. The Huskies lost three games by one point and two others by two points. Lack of height is a serious handicap, but the team has good speed and good shooting. Center is Rudy Bozeman (6-5). The forwards are 6-1, Chris Chappell and Alfred Ellison.

# 1968 PREP BASKETBALL SCHEDULE

	WEST HIGH WARRIORS	TORRANCE TARTARS	SOUTH HIGH SPARTANS	NORTH HIGH SAXONS	BISHOP MONTGOMERY
JAN. 2-6		Compton Tournament	Compton Tournament	Compton Tournament	Compton Tournament
WED., JAN. 3	at Leuzinger (3:00)				
FRI., JAN. 5	at Lennox (8:00)				
SAT., JAN. 6			Leuzinger (3:00)		Crespi (8:00)
TUES., JAN. 9		Culver City (3:00)			
WED., JAN. 10			at Inglewood (3:00)	at Redondo (3:00)	
FRI., JAN. 12	El Segundo (8:00)	at Beverly Hills (8:00)	Redondo (8:00)	Hawthorne (8:00)	St. Bernard (8:00)
TUES., JAN. 16	Culver City (3:00)	at L.B. Poly (3:00)			
WED., JAN. 17				at Mira Costa (3:00)	
FRI., JAN. 19	Palos Verdes (8:00)	at Rolling Hills (8:00)	Santa Monica (8:00)	at Inglewood (8:00)	at Lasuen (8:00)
TUES., JAN. 23	at Morningside (3:00)				
WED., JAN. 24			North (3:00)	at South (3:00)	
FRI., JAN. 26	at Aviation (8:00)	Leuzinger (8:00)	at Mira Costa (8:00)	at Santa Monica (8:00)	at St. Monica's (8:00)
TUES., JAN. 30		El Segundo (3:00)			Murphy (8:00)
WED., JAN. 31			Hawthorne (3:00)		
FRI., FEB. 2	at Lawndale (8:00)	at Morningside (3:00)	Inglewood (8:00)	Redondo (8:00)	at Crespi (8:00)
TUES., FEB. 6	Lennox (3:00)				at St. Bernard (8:00)
WED., FEB. 7			at Redondo (8:00)	at Hawthorne (3:00)	
FRI., FEB. 9	at El Segundo (8:00)	at Culver City (8:00)		Mira Costa (8:00)	Lasuen (8:00)
TUES., FEB. 13	at Palos Verdes (3:00)				St. Monica (8:00)
WED., FEB. 14			Beverly Hills (3:00)	at Santa Monica (3:00)	Inglewood (3:00)
FRI., FEB. 16	Aviation (8:00)	Rolling Hills (8:00)	at North (8:00)	South (8:00)	at Murphy (8:00)
TUES., FEB. 20		at Leuzinger (3:00)			
WED., FEB. 21	Lawndale (8:00)		Mira Costa (8:00)	Santa Monica (8:00)	
FRI., FEB. 23	at Lennox (8:30)	Morningside (8:00)	at Hawthorne (8:00)		

## Press-Herald SPORTS

JANUARY 3, 1968

D-1

### North Plays At Compton

The Compton Basketball Tournament will finish up Round 1 today with two games before embarking on Round 2 later in the evening at the high school and college gymnasiums.

North, beaten for the first time by Compton in their own tournament last week, debuts today against Mt. Carmel at 4:30 p.m. in the Compton gym.

The Long Beach Poly-St. Bernard's first round match is set for 3 p.m. The other six first round games, involving three other Torrance schools were played yesterday.

Torrance stunned Centennial, 76-75; South downed Long Beach Woodrow Wilson, 96-60; and Bishop Montgomery was upset by Verbum Dei, 81-74.

Long Beach Jordan edged Cathedral, 72-71; and Mill-



### Trainers Dwell on Thoroughbred Diets

A healthy thoroughbred horse in training will eat from 10 to 12 quarts of whole or crushed oats and perhaps 15 to 20 pounds of top quality hay a day, plus a bit of "salad" if available.

At tracks where there is no readily available grass between the barns, or elsewhere in the stable area, where he might be permitted to graze, conscientious groomers will undertake foraging expeditions to fetch a gunny sack or so of greens for their charge.

Other staple diets for the thoroughbred would include an occasional hot mash of bran, barley and corn with a dab of molasses and some chopped carrots.

There are also commercial food pellets on the market

### Packers Are Best Of Pros

The Green Bay Packers apparently are as good as they have to be.

Dallas discovered that fact in Sunday's refrigerated 21-17 heartbreaker at Green Bay; Kansas City found out the same thing a year ago in Los Angeles, and two weeks from now it'll be Oakland's turn in Miami.

It was Doak Walker who once said of Detroit quarterback Bobby Layne: "Bobby never lost a game, time just ran out."

But the statement applies more accurately to Vince Lombardi and the Green Bay Packers, the club which mirrors and implements his ideas.

"This is one beautiful man," exulted Jerry Kramer, the Packers' offensive guard, referring to Lombardi after the victory over the Cowboys.

Lombardi's fantastically disciplined charges now have accomplished what no other NFL team has before by winning three straight league titles. For the second time in as many championship games, the Cowboys forced the Packers right down to the wire Sunday and actually were ahead, 17-14, with only 16 seconds left when Bart Starr squirmed over the goal line to pull it out for the Packers.

There were tears of joy in the Packer dressing room after the victory Sunday which put Green Bay into the Super Bowl with Oakland of the American Football League Jan. 14 in Miami.

Zeke Bratkowski, Starr's veteran understudy, noted that the quarterback sneak had not been run by the Packers all season before it won Sunday's game.

"It was Bart's great experience," he said. "He knew the footing wasn't any good, so he decided to take it on himself."

Bratkowski and some of the other Packers caught glimpses of Oakland's easy 40-7 victory over Houston in the AFL title game Sunday. Bratkowski was impressed.

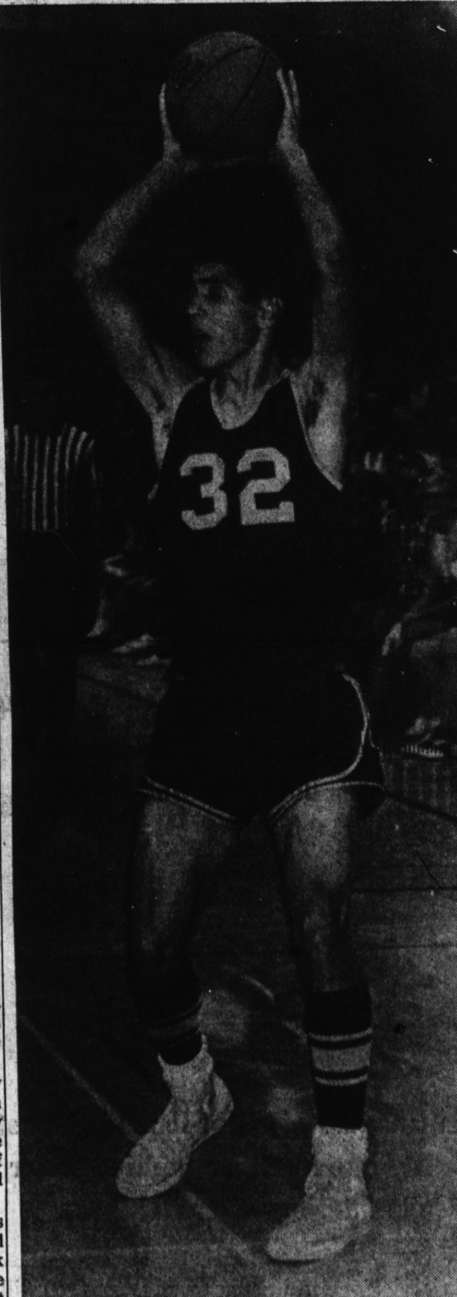
"They're a good football team. They've won 11 games in a row," he said.

The Packers begin reviewing Oakland films Wednesday and are expected to resume drills the same day.

### Dinner Will Raise Funds For Golfers

High school golf program co-chairmen Walter Keller and Howard Smith have announced that the second annual Pro-Celebrity dinner will be held Tuesday, Jan. 23, at the Cocoanut Grove of the Hotel Ambassador.

Many of the leading professionals on the winter tour have been invited to attend the dinner, the co-chairmen disclosed.



LARRY WIGGINS... The high scoring forward for Bishop Montgomery High School's Basketball team has led the Knights to a 12-2 non-league record. The Knights, competing in the Compton Tournament this week, are defending champions of the Camino Real League and will open their league campaign at home next Tuesday evening against Crespi. (Press-Herald photo by Gordon Akers)

### Speedsters To Compete In Sports Arena Meet

Perhaps the finest indoor 440 yard race in track and field history has taken shape for the Los Angeles Invitational Indoor meet Friday, Jan. 19, at the Sports Arena.

Entries from Vince Matthews, Jim Kemp and John Carlos to oppose Tommie Smith have been received.

The quartet will be racing over the new Tartan track, the first indoor course to be surfaced with Tartan. It will be the surfacing for the 1968 Olympic Games in Mexico City. It is being installed on the Sports Arena track at a cost of \$29,000.

Tommie Smith, the holder of 12 world records, has the indoor 440 mark of 46.2 as

### BOAT SHOW IS LARGEST IN HISTORY

The sixth annual Southern California International Boat Show, which opened Thursday in Long Beach Arena, is the biggest in its history, occupying more than twice the space of any former year.

The combined showing of sail and power boats this year requires exhibit space in the mammoth arena, the adjacent Municipal Auditorium, connecting lobby areas and a huge pavilion erected alongside.

Last year's "double header" format used all available space in the arena twice over in separate showings for sail and power boats.

### Bob Cousy Says Basket Is Too Big

Bob Cousy, one of the most famous "little men" of basketball who excelled with the championship Boston Celtics of the NBA and who is now coach at Boston College, insists that lack of competitive spirit is apparent on the college basketball courts today.

"Kids just don't think the same anymore," said Cousy, who achieved fame at Holy Cross. "The major flaw is that scoring comes too easily. Kids shoot better today, but they don't handle the ball as well."

Cousy believes that a smaller basket might solve the problem.

"It's getting harder and harder to teach kids how to play defense. A smaller basket would reduce scoring from anywhere on the court and would bring fitness back into the game. It would also help bring back coaching."

"We would have to insist that kids take better shots. Ninety per cent of the time today a kid will stop and take a jump shot off a fast break rather than drive in for a layup. That can drive a coach crazy," said Cousy.

### Runners Ranked Eighth

West High's championship cross country team has ranked eighth in the nation in a "run-by-mail" meet conducted by Track and Field News magazine.

Mills High School, Millbrae, Calif., ranked first in the postal competition and established a new national record in the process. The composite time for the Mills team was 48:01.2.

Competitors in the postal meet run two miles on a track. Times for the top five members of each seven-man team are added to give the over-all team score.