

The Dutch Rub

by Charlie Van Sickle

Basketball Leagues Realigned

League basketball action already has started in three conferences in the Tri-City area—Valley B, Valley A and Blue Mountain Conference. The JC teams swing into conference play Friday. Only the Yakima Valley Class AA schools—the Big Six Conference and Little Seven Conference—wait until after the first of the year to get into the act.

Each of those five leagues involving area teams have undergone realignment since last season and there appears to be considerable confusion among the fans as to what team is playing in what league.

The major realignments were in the Washington JC Conference, which adopted a three-division setup followed by an eight-team championship tourney in March, and the Valley double-A schools, who divided into two divisions to accommodate three new entries—Selah, Walla Walla and Grandview.

JC Loop Expands To 15 Teams

The Washington JC Conference expanded to 15 teams with the addition of Spokane, Big Bend, Shoreline and Peninsula. All except Shoreline played basketball last season, but not on a conference basis. The four new teams forced the three-division program.

Columbia Basin, which has won four straight titles and six in the past seven seasons in its domination of the conference, will play in the Eastern Division, along with Big Bend at Moses Lake, Spokane, Yakima and Wenatchee.

The Northern Division includes Skagit Valley at Mount Vernon, Shoreline at Seattle, Highline in the south Seattle area, Everett and Olympic at Bremerton. The Southern Division lineup includes Grays Harbor at Aberdeen, Peninsula at Port Angeles, Centralia, Clark at Vancouver and Lower Columbia at Longview.

At the end of the league season, the top two teams from each division, plus two at-large entries selected by a conference committee, will enter the three-day tournament at Cascade High School in Everett. First-round action includes a four-game, single-elimination schedule with losers out and the four winners advancing to Friday's semifinals. Friday's winners play for the title Saturday night, March 13.

That tournament at Everett falls on the same weekend as the double-A regional tourney at Spokane.

Two Division In Double-A Ranks

The Valley double-A divisions are based on a "big" and "little" alignment. The Big Six Conference, composed of the "big" schools, includes the three Tri-City teams, newcomer Walla Walla and the two Yakima schools—Davis and Eisenhower. The Little Seven League numbers Wapato, Toppenish, Ellensburg, West Valley, Sunnyside, Selah and Grandview.

The big question among the double-A schools, of course, is which league will have how many entries in the district tourney. YVIAA officials agreed last spring that the Big Six would have four teams and the Little Seven would have two teams.

A meeting in Yakima this week, however, could bring about modification of that original plan. One reason for an expected change is that Walla Walla, although a member of the YVIAA and entered in league play, must continue its long-time arrangement with Clarkston.

As in past years, Clarkston and Walla Walla will play off to determine which team will meet the No. 2 Spokane entry for a regional berth. By the same token, the Wenatchee-area winner will continue to play off against the No. 2 Valley team.

Change In Formula Expected

Not counting Walla Walla, that leaves the Big Six with five teams eligible for district play compared to seven for the Little Seven. It's inconceivable the four-two formula would remain in effect. About the best the Big Six could hope for would be three direct representatives with its fourth place team playing off against the No. 3 team from the Little Seven.

In past years, the top two finishers in double-A competition have been seeded into second-round district play. With a two-division setup, that's another important item to be determined when YVIAA officials convene this week at Yakima. The first round of district play is single elimination, which places extra importance on the first-round bye accorded two teams.

A Schools Lose State Berth

The loss of Grandview and Selah to the double-A ranks cost the Valley A League one of its three state tournament berths, reducing the conference to 12 teams. YVIAA officials adopted a two-division setup with six teams in each division.

Two Join Area B Circuits

The Valley A Southern Division includes Connell, Kiona-Benton, Prosser, Goldendale, Granger and White Swan. The Northern Division lists Naches, Marquette, Highland, Central Catholic, East Valley and Cle Elum.

Each team plays a home-and-home series with each of the other five teams in its division, plus one cross-over game with each of the six teams in the other division. But there will be only one set of league standings, instead of determining a champion in each division.

The Valley A League, like the double-A schools, won't decide its specific district tourney procedure until this week's YVIAA meeting. The past years, the Class A schools have played an eight-team tourney. This year, it's possible they might adopt a six-team setup similar to the one used in recent years by the double-A schools.

There are also a couple of newcomers to the Class B ranks. Easton came into the Valley B League, joining Bickleton, Kittitas, Mabton, River View, Thorp and Zillah. Washtucna was admitted to the Blue Mountain Conference eight-team alignment which also includes Burbank, Kahlotus, Touchet, Prescott, Waitsburg, Anathone and Asotin. Both subdistrict and district play for BMC schools will be at Waitsburg.

Hawks Extend Win Streak To 32 Games

Rodgers Achieves 100th Cage Win In Sweep At Boise

BY TOM BURNSIDE

BOISE—The Columbia Basin Hawks blitzed Boise with a sparkling first-half shooting effort and went on to post an 84-58 victory last night at Bronco gym to hand Coach Jim Rodgers his 100th triumph in his five-year tenure as head coach at the Pasco school.

The Hawks hit 19 for 31 from the field in the first half last night — a brilliant 61 per cent — to put the game away early and record their 32nd consecutive victory. It was a contrast to Friday's game when CBC had to scramble from behind to chalk up a 75-74 victory in overtime.

The Hawks had five players in double figures last night, led by 6-8 Byron Beck with 22 and Theartis Wallace with 21. Randy Ackley, who scored 25 points Friday night, again was high for Boise last night with 24. But only one other Bronc was in double figures.

CBC FINISHED last night with 49 per cent from the field while Boise, 11 of 33 in the first half, managed only six field goals in 43 attempts in the second half for an overall 22 per cent.

The Hawks, despite giving away three inches per man to the towering Broncos, again had the edge in the rebounding department as they beat the Boise school for the 12th time in three years. Beck led rebounders with 18, giving CBC an overall 47-30 margin. Wendell Jones, who hit the go-ahead points in Friday's thriller, added 11 rebounds and also scored 11 points.

After holding a 47-33 margin at halftime, the Hawks dumped in eight straight points at the outset of the second half and moved the game out of reach. Al Courter dumped in four consecutive shots midway through the second half, Jones hit on a 20-footer and Beck added a free-throw to open a 78-47 margin—largest of the game—with 8:28 left.

Jones, filling in for Beck, who fouled out with 2:19 left in the overtime session, had a chance to tie the score with 1:40 remaining on a pair of free throws, but he missed both and Boise led 74-72.

Jones cut the gap to one point on a free throw with 1:15 left, then hit the winner on a short jumper from the side. Ackley, who led all scorers with 25, had a chance to win it for the Broncos with two seconds left, but his shot bounced off the front rim.

CBC JUMPED OFF to a 7-2 lead and held a 13-4 margin five minutes into the game. But Ackley hit four fielders in a row as Boise rang up 11 straight points to knot the score at 15-15. The teams traded leads twice before the Hawks spurred to a 29-19 margin. A late spurt carried the Broncos within three points at halftime, 35-32.

No more than six points separated the teams during the second half as they swapped leads six times in the final 10 minutes. CBC was ahead 64-62 with 2:26 left, but a 25-foot set by 6-7 Jack Crowell with 53 seconds left tied the score and sent it into overtime.

The Hawks had four players in double figures, led by Beck with 17.

Wallace 9 3 4 22 Ackley 7 12 2 23 Beck 11 15 2 25 Jones 4 2 11 Snow 2 2 6 Brown 0 0 1 Crowell 3 1 1 3 Smith 0 0 1 McIntosh 1 2 0 4 Enser 0 0 0 0 Williams 0 0 1 0 Beck 26 12 28 84 Broncos 26 12 28 58

Halftime: CBC 47, Boise 22
Officials: Kennewick and Fife.

FRIDAY
CBC BOISE
Beck 6 5 5 17 Ackley 2 2 0 4 Wallace 3 3 5 15 Harvey 2 2 0 4 Jones 4 2 11 Snow 2 2 6 Brown 0 0 1 Crowell 3 1 1 3 Smith 0 0 1 McIntosh 1 2 0 4 Enser 0 0 0 0 Williams 0 0 1 0 Beck 26 12 28 84 Broncos 26 12 28 58

Halftime: CBC 35, Boise 22
Officials: Carlson and Wallace

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Phil Neill, Richland junior sharpshooter, drove for a basket in Friday's 91-56 victory over Toppenish. Blocking out for Neill was teammate Dave Strasser (44). At right was Toppenish's Steve Burch (13). Bombers hit 50 per cent from the field, including 8 of 12 by Neill.

Pasco Loses Cage Starts

TOPPENISH — Tim Pabisz scored 28 points Saturday night to lead the Toppenish Wildcats to a surprising 73-49 victory over the Pasco Bulldogs in non-league basketball action here. It was the second straight weekend loss for the Bulldogs, who opened Friday with an 81-77 setback at Pendleton.

Pasco had an 18-14 lead after the first period last night, but the Wildcats, bouncing back from a 91-56 rout at Richland the night before, erupted for 28 points in the second period while limiting the Bulldogs to eight points.

PABISZ WAS backed in the scoring column by Ray Harvey with 18 and Ervin Curfman with 17. High for Pasco was Larry Jackson with 19—only Bulldog in double figures.

Toppenish won the B game, 48-44, with Tim Rankin, Mike Sutton and Bill Harvey each scoring 13. Jim DeBord was high for Pasco with 10.

Pasco forged ahead at Pendleton Friday night, 36-32 at halftime and 59-51 after three periods before the Buckaroos uncorked a 30-point spree in the final eight minutes to pull out the victory.

CLARENCE COWAPOO scored 28 points and Jay Brunner added 20 to pace the Bucks, who knotted the score with five minutes left. Brunner broke a 77-all tie with a minute left when he hit on a drive from the baseline. Cowapo's two free throws with seven seconds left iced the victory.

Five Pasco players hit in double figures as the Bulldogs came up with their best opening-night shooting in recent years. Jackson led with 16 and Gary Worrell added 15. Pasco shot .417 from the field, sinking 30 field goals.

Pasco scored a 49-46 victory in the B game with Clifton Allen hitting 11 and Mike Curtis added 10.

PASCO	TOPPENISH
Worrell 5 1 7 Pabisz 12 4 5 28	Burke 0 1 4 1 Gonzales 3 0 3 6
Burke 2 2 1 7 Scott 1 0 5 2	Pope 2 2 10 6 Brown 11 6 2 2
Brooks 4 0 4 8 Harry 6 5 3 18	Wren 7 5 13 19 Burch 0 0 0 0
Wren 7 5 13 19 Burch 0 0 0 0	Moore 1 0 1 2 Curfman 6 5 3 17
Moore 1 0 1 2 Curfman 6 5 3 17	Stover 0 0 0 0 Kinder 0 0 1 0
Stover 0 0 0 0 Kinder 0 0 1 0	Schappch 0 0 0 0 Rankin 1 0 2 2
Schappch 0 0 0 0 Rankin 1 0 2 2	Garretson 0 0 0 0 Totals 19 15 49
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Halftime: CBC 47, Boise 22
Officials: Kennewick and Fife.

FRIDAY
PASCO PENDLETON
Worrell 5 1 7 Pabisz 12 4 5 28 Burke 0 1 4 1 Gonzales 3 0 3 6 Pope 2 2 1 7 Scott 1 0 5 2 Brooks 4 0 4 8 Harry 6 5 3 18 Wren 7 5 13 19 Burch 0 0 0 0 Moore 1 0 1 2 Curfman 6 5 3 17 Stover 0 0 0 0 Kinder 0 0 1 0 Schappch 0 0 0 0 Rankin 1 0 2 2 Garretson 0 0 0 0 Totals 19 15 49 Totals 22 17 38 91

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SPORTS

Patterson Posts KO Win In Sixth

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) — A lean, sharp, Floyd Patterson, two-time former world heavyweight champion, knocked out Charley Powell in 1:21 of the sixth round of a scheduled 10-round bout Saturday night and apparently convinced himself he is on the rebound.

"I am on the road back," said Patterson after he had floored the San Diego fighter two times prior to the knock-out.

Patterson, currently the third-ranking heavyweight challenger, used the bout as a warm-up for a scheduled 12-rounder with Canadian George Chuvalo Jan. 29.

PATTERSON WEIGHED 197 for the bout, his second since suffering two one-round knock-outs in heavyweight title bouts with Sonny Liston. Powell weighed 213.

Patterson was in command all the way and did not appear to be damaged at any time.

He took his time opening up, and started Powell's decline in the fifth round. He caught the former football player with a right-left combination and dropped him to one knee just as the bell sounded ending the round.

POWELL WENT down again, this time for a seven count, after a left-right combo early in the sixth. Patterson, fighting from a low crouch and his familiar peek-a-boo style, continued to pour it on.

He put Powell away with a winging left hook and solid right cross. After referee Jersey Joe Walcott had counted 10, he helped the fallen fighter to his feet.

Patterson had knocked out Italy's Santo Amonti in his only other start since the Liston fights.

Kennewick Swim Team Cards Win

Steve Matheson and Terry Blankenship each recorded two firsts as Kennewick downed Yakima 58-28 in a practice swim meet Saturday.

Matheson's firsts came in the 200-yard individual medley and the 100-yard backstroke. Blankenship won the 400-yard free style and the 100-yard breaststroke.

The other winner for Kennewick was John Madison in the 100-yard free style. He also had a second in the 50-yard freestyle.

Other top placers for Kennewick were Pat Colgan, second in the 200-yard freestyle and the 100-yard backstroke; Milton Hicks, second in the 200-yard individual medley and third in the 100-yard freestyle; Gary Rossen, third in the 50-yard freestyle and the 100-yard breaststroke; Richy Adkins, second in the 100-yard butterfly, and John Westland, third in the 100-yard butterfly.

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