

NEWS OF NEW CANAAN SPORTS WORLD

Rollin' It Out

By Bob Petronella

Our high school basketball team advanced into the semi-finals of the medium school championship tourney last Monday night with a thrilling come-from-behind win over a skillful Southington team. The Wednesday before the Rams topped Wilcox Tech by a 64-53 score.

The Murphymen have looked good, but it seems the team just can't stand prosperity. The Rams are at their best when they are being pressed. As soon as they move ahead of their opposition and gain a comfortable margin, the team seems to let up, and before you know it New Canaan basketball buffs are biting their fingernails.

It took NCHS almost three quarters to overtake Southington Monday, and when they finally did they extended their lead to 10 points, only to have Southington rally and almost overtake them.

Team Effort
Gary Liberatore came up with a 23-point total against Wilcox Tech to pace the Rams in their opening tourney clash, and Rit Natale led the New Canaan team with 15 points against Southington. Both of these marksmen will have to be at their best this evening against Lyman Hall.

Gary Bulkley, Tom Wood, Pete DiVenere and Jay Jordan have done a terrific job under the boards for the Rams, and Wood was particularly effective in the Wilcox Tech game when he sank 13 points, most of them on a neat play through the middle.

Wood played a good defensive game, and was in the middle of every fight for a rebound. DiVenere has been the most consistent player on the squad all year long. Pete, along with Gary Bulkley has looked real tough under the boards during tournament play.

Pete Ferris came through with a goal at a crucial point in Monday's game, and along with Gordie Wood and Jay Jordan gave Coach Murphy a strong bench.

Local basketball fans traveled to the games in Branford and New Haven gave up a tank of gas, the price of admission, and on the trip to Branford, a couple of bucks in tolls.

An Eye For Beauty
It's only one man's opinion, but following the NCHS basketball team here has convinced me that New Canaan's cheerleaders are the prettiest in the area.

The gals who brighten each NCHS game, with their enthusiasm and looks are Ann Gardner (she's the captain), Marta Apy, Ginny Meyer, Susie Taylor, Missy Brine, Pam Cooper, Bonnie Ghents, Penny Raymond, Mary Lou Youmans, Pat Griffin and Charlotte Howard. Sorry boys, they didn't give me their phone numbers.

Will Sugar, Get His Lumps?
Ray Robinson, the ageless wonder of the prize ring, will try again against Gene Fullmer this Saturday night. I thought Sugar won from here to Utah the last time out, but the officials called it a draw, and Fullmer retained his title.

I saw it the same way when the Philadelphia dead end kid, Joey Giardello, was given a draw with Gene in a title bout. Giardello is still awaiting a return bout. Fullmer as a fighter, reminds me of a good strong football tackle. I would like to see whoever wins meet Paul Pender, and then if Giardello gets into condition, and they fight him, he'll be the next champion of the middleweight division.

If you remember, we were one of the few so called "writers" who picked Floyd Patterson to defeat Johansson in their last scrimmage. If you can stand the suspense, stay tuned to this station for our pre-

dition as to who will win their third fight on March 13.

We told NCHS athletic director Joe Sikorski that he looked as though he had lost some weight and was looking really trim. Sikorski cracked that he was getting in shape for Patterson. I told him I was too — Paterson, N.J.

In The Stands
New Canaan was well represented at the spacious Payne Whitney gym. Chief Keller headed the delegation from the police department, along with Mike Angelatos, Vin Luciano, Archie Cogswell, Ed Ready, Ralph Scott and Sgt. Kelvin Cantrell.

Also spotted Ralph Saggese, Pete Ludwig, Joe and Eleanor Spadacini, Pat LaPerchia, Joe Hussey, "Seat" Schettino, Billy Ermo, Warren Kelley and Sham Kelley, Frank Lato, Mike Vitello, Lloyd Cook, sr., and Lloyd Cook, jr., Vin Vitelli, Dolf Tomaselli, Mrs. Bud Apy, Tommy Sirico and Kenny Bouton.

Short Passes
Nick Lappitalo, former New Canaan athletic great, is out of the hospital after a check-up. . . . Lizzy Cohen is back from California, after seeing his brother, Mickey. No, not that Mickey. . . . Carl Caputo dropped us a card from Miami. Carl worked out with the Miami football team, and says their training site is ideal.

Aaron Breslow answered a query as to how his bowling average was holding up. Aaron said that he bowls one game like a champ and the next like a bum. An onlooker told him to just bowl every other game. . . . Charles "Chuck" Collins, former coach for the semi-pro football Redskins, in the late '40s, was a spectator at the NCHS Southington game. Chuck is coach of the Madison (Conn.) high school team, but failed to gain a tourney berth this season.

Felix "Phil" Annazzo was selected by CIAC officials, to referee the New Canaan-Southington game, and turned in another excellent job.

Ten Years Ago This Week
There wasn't much doing on the New Canaan sports beat.

Local Winners In Swim Meet

Nine young New Canaan swimmers helped pile up points for the Dolphin Swim Club of Stamford Saturday and Sunday in the New England age group championship meet sponsored by the New Haven Recreation Department at Hill-house High School in that city.

Jim Bayles and Tim Swallen were members of the 200-yard medley relay team which chalked up a fourth place in the 10 and under age group. Swallen also won a third place medal in the backstroke and fifth in the freestyle, and Jeff Swallen was fifth in the backstroke.

In the girls' division for the same age group, Chris Coombs was a member of the fourth place 200-yard medley relay team. Doug Crichton, swimming in the 11-12-year-old group, took a third in the 100-yard freestyle, fourth in the 100 butterfly, and fourth in the 100 backstroke. He also led off the 200-yard medley relay team which copped a second place.

Marion Jordan, Candy Johnson and Barbara Scott were members of the fourth place team in the girls' division of the same relay race. Twelve-year-old Marion also set a new resident record in the girls' 100-yard backstroke, with a time of 1:19.0.

For the 13 and 14-year-olds, the boys' 200-yard medley relay team broke its own Connecticut record with a time of 2:00.9. Daviji Bayles Please turn to Page 22.

Moving Along The Tournament Trail



Victorious in two tournament games already, New Canaan High School's basketball team awaits tonight's action against Lyman Hall of Wallingford in Payne Whitney gym, the semi-final tilt in the trail to the state title. In the front row, left to right, are Coach William F. Murphy, Robert Stewart, Peter Ferris, Richard Natale, Gary Liberatore, Alex Reid and Manager Robert Bach. In the back row are Richard Olson, Gary Bulkley, Tom Wood, Jay Jordan, Gorton Wood, Peter DiVenere and Jim Saunders.

Spurt By Bob's Boys In YMCA Program Results In Shot At Cage Title

Local boys from the fifth through 10th grades will be given a chance to test their physical prowess in the second annual athletic achievement program to be sponsored by the New Canaan Community YMCA on the Saturdays of March 11 and 18 at the Senior High School.

Charles W. Haines, chairman of the Y's boys' work committee, said success of last year's program prompted continuing the event on an expanded basis. These include chin-ups, standing broad jump, softball throw for accuracy, agility and speed race and basketball throwing for the greatest number of baskets in one minute.

Despite the wide range of ages of the participants, Mr. Haines explained that the youngest and smallest boy will be on an equal footing with the oldest and biggest, as under the scoring method used allowances will be made for age, height and weight of each boy.

He said the highest score last year, as an example, was made by Gregory G. Raymond, a Class F entrant, who rang up 405 points, nearly twice the score achieved by the winner in the Class A group.

In addition to the "best athlete" trophy award, ribbons will be given to "high man" in each of the six classes into which contestants will be divided.

Also, special athletic achievement awards will be given to all entrants scoring over the national average in all five events. Although this would appear to be a simple feat, Mr. Haines said, only two contestants last year were able to achieve this goal, Richard L. Cullen and George J. Ializzi.

Bob's
G. Ready, 8-9-25; J. Corr, 5-2-12; D. Lawlor, 5-2-12; B. Hickey, 2-0-4; F. Coletto, 3-3-9. Totals, 23-16-62.

Home Oil
V. Lapolla, 4-5-13; G. Corr, 4-5-13; J. Cerullo, 6-2-14; C. Hexamer, 1-0-2; S. Sheridan, 1-0-2; L. Paggi, 0-0-0. Totals, 16-12-44.

Bob's
G. Ready, 5-8-18; D. Lawlor, 5-0-10; J. Corr, 3-1-7; F. Coletto, 6-3-15; B. Hickey, 1-1-3. Totals, 20-13-53.

Home Oil
V. Lapolla, 3-4-10; G. Corr, 5-4-14; J. Cerullo, 2-0-4; C. Hexamer, 2-0-4; S. Sheridan, 4-0-8; L. Paggi, 0-0-0. Totals, 16-8-40.

God made the countryside. Is it because of reverence and gratitude that some drivers race through it like Hell?

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Rams Reach Semi-Finals Of State Cage Tourney

New Canaan High Nips Southington With Late Rally

Coach William F. Murphy's basketball Rams came from behind Monday night in spacious Payne Whitney gym, New Haven, to defeat Southington, 56-52, and advance into the semi-finals of the Class B or medium size school state championship tournament.

The Rams had to wait until the final minute of the third quarter before they could seize the lead. Southington was ahead 35-31 when Jay Jordan grabbed two rebounds and turned them into New Canaan goals to tie the score 35-35 with a minute to go.

Rit Natale gave NCHS the lead, which they never relinquished, with a goal just before the whistle ended the third period, and the Rams led 36-35.

Lyman Hall of Wallingford upset Cheshire the same night to move into the semi-finals also.

The fourth quarter saw the Rams extend their lead to 10 points, only to give New Canaan followers a bad case of nerves when the Southington squad rallied to narrow the gap to 50-48 with 1:45 remaining in the game. Here are the highlights of the final quarter:

Late Rally
Bulkley's goal moved NCHS to a 38-35 lead, and Natale hit with two goals and two free throws to make it 44-35 for New Canaan with five minutes left to play. Salerno connected for Southington, but DiVenere's free throw kept New Canaan up 45-37 with 3:40 left.

After Natale hit with a foul shot, O'Connell hit with two straight shots and NCHS led 48-43. Gary Liberatore switched a one-hander through the nets to make it 50-43.

Pete DiVenere crashed into Rit Chopus and went out of the game on fouls, and was replaced by Pete Ferris. Chopus scored both free throws, and followed with a field goal to make it 50-48 in NCHS's favor with 1:45 remaining in the game.

Bulkley passed to Natale who scored; then Ferris took a Liberatore pass up the middle for another tally with 45 seconds left in the game.

Cichowski scored two free throws, but Bulkley put the icing on the cake with two more points from the foul line and the final score was New Canaan 56, Southington 52.

Bulkley, Natale, DiVenere, Tom Wood and Liberatore started for the Rams, and received valuable support from Jay Jordan, Pete Ferris and Gorton Wood.

Leading Rebounder
Gary Bulkley led the New Canaan team in rebounds. Gary grabbed 11 and was an important factor in the Ram victory. . . . DiVenere snatched six rebounds, Jordan four, Tom Wood four, and Natale, Liberatore, and Ferris two apiece. . . . New Canaan connected with 10 out of 33 shots in the first half for 30 per cent, and had nine out of 25 in the second half for 36 per cent.

Southington hit with nine out of 25 shots in their first half for 36 per cent, and only five for 32 in the final half for 15 per cent. . . . The Rams hit with five out of 13

Tough Opposition Expected Tonight From Lyman Hall

Lyman Hall High of Wallingford will face the New Canaan Rams at 7:15 tonight in Yale's Payne Whitney gym, New Haven, and the Murphymen will have to be at their best if they intend to move into the finals of the Class B championship tourney Saturday night.

The Trojans, under the tutelage of Coach Roger McMahon, finished second in the tough Housatonic Valley League. McMahon's charges won 20 and dropped just three games during the regular season.

Two of their losses came at the hands of Cheshire, who were beaten by Lyman Hall in a tourney game last Monday night. The Trojans split a two-game set with Southington, who gave New Canaan a run for their money, before bowing last Monday by a 56-52 score.

Ron Pietruski, who paced the Lyman Hall squad at Payne Whitney gym on Monday with 16 points, is one of the offensive stars the Murphymen will have to contend with. Pietruski was a reserve at the start of the season, but his play has improved steadily and he hit his peak against Cheshire.

Mel Horowitz is the diminutive captain of the Trojans, and state sports writers rate him as a definite All-State selection. Horowitz bagged 14 points against Cheshire on Monday.

Larry Sage, six-one rebounder, is the man to watch under the boards. Sage has been the most consistent rebounder in the Valley league this season. Other Trojan players who had a hand in bringing the Wallingford squad this far in tourney play are Bob Michonski, Dick Wynn and Bob Dombrowski.

This is Coach McMahon's second season at the helm for the Lyman Hall team and both have been sensational. Last year McMahon's charges had a 21-game winning streak ended by East Haven High in the semi-finals of the state tourney.

Neither team will be a stranger to tournament play. Lyman Hall's Indians won the Class B title in 1940, 1948 and 1953 and were runners-up in 1936, 1937 and 1959. The Rams took their state titles in 1932, 1933 and 1934 in the C-D division, and in 1956, 1957 and 1958 in Class C. This is New Canaan's first tournament as a Class B school.

The wombat of Australia, a cross between a small bear and a large rodent, is fond of new hay. It eats the hay daintily, stalk by stalk.

Oilers Outsluck All Star Skaters

The Home Oil hockey club won its 10th game of the season, and fifth in a row Sunday night when they trounced an All-Star team from New Haven by a 5-1 score at Crystal Rink, Norwalk.

The teams battled to a stand-off for the first eight minutes of the game, but a goal by Doug Morrison at 8:31 of the first period, on an assist from John Theall gave the Oilers their first score.

Carl Marino banged a shot past goalie Green at 14:24, after a pass-off by John Theall, for the Oilers second point late in the second period. The visitors received a gift goal when Bob Barzee's shot came to rest behind Oiler goalie Paul Festa, after bouncing off of Doolittle's stick. Fabian Soderstrom voided this "gift" when he took a pass from Marino and drilled the puck into the nets at 17:40 of the second period.

The other Oiler goals were scored by John Theall, on an assist by Doug Morrison, and Marino, who Please turn to Page 22

Riflemen Drop Two Matches

New Canaan's YMCA Rifle Club was an attractive target for two opponents in the past week, with the Brookside team of South Norwalk and the Westport YMCA marksmen scoring the bull's-eyes.

Brookside edged the local shooters by a 450-439 score, and Westport downed the New Canaan team by a 472-351 score in a match which found the locals short of men on the firing line.

Shooting for New Canaan in the Brookside match were Bill Saccary, 71; Betty Killingsworth, 86; Richard Fitch, 88; Bob Cerretani, 81; Ralph Perida, 84; Bruce Meyer, 74; David Burke, 86; Joseph French, 79; Greg Morgan, 84; Grayson Wilcox, 93, and Forrest Brown, 86. Only the top five scores count in the team competition.

Counters for the Brookside club were James Jones, 91; Phillip Rice, 93; Charles Sawicki, 96; Edward Maillard, 91, and George Scorters, 83.

New Canaan had only four firing against Westport. Their scores were Bill Saccary, 88; Sue Waters, 86; Bob Cerretani, 89, and Harry Adams, 88.

Westport's counters were Pat Powers, 91; Dave Swan, 94; Dave Rowlands, 92; Bill Welch, 99, and John Sperren, 96.

IN FINAL GAME
Art Wilkes appeared in his final game as a senior member of the Middlebury (Vt.) College hockey team Wednesday night against Dartmouth on the home ice. A three-sport athlete, Art has played both defense and offense for the skaters. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Howard R. Wilkes of Hemlock Hill Road.

New Canaan's Top Rival Eliminated From Tourney

Abbott Tech of Danbury, second-seeded to New Canaan in the medium schools state basketball tournament, was upset by Plainville, 49-31, in the Payne Whitney gym at New Haven Tuesday night.

In the second game, James Memorial of Simsbury eliminated the defending champions, East Haven, 58-35.

If New Canaan gets by Lyman Hall of Wallingford tonight, Thursday, the Rams will meet the winner of the Simsbury-Plainville game in the finals Tuesday at 7:15 p.m. in the Payne Whitney gym.

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ACROSS
1. Short syllables (pros.)
6. Lobster claw
11. Overcast
12. Ghastly
13. Hugh
14. Kinds of examinations
15. Turkey stuffing ingredients
17. Swiss river
18. Youth
19. Russian river
22. Beseech
23. A grating
24. Greek poet
27. Demon
28. Touch
29. Wooden shoe rider
30. Boy's nickname
31. Through
32. Cutting tool
35. Yeoman of the royal guard
38. Summons
40. One's occupation
41. In a vertical line (naut.)
42. The Old Bucket
43. Watery
44. News-papers collectedly
DOWN
1. Moham-met's birthplace
2. Nebraska city
3. Lasso thrower
4. The sweetsop
5. Colonist
6. Blacken
7. Injure
8. Typist's mistake
9. Girl's nickname
10. Public notices
11. Annoy
12. by fault-finding
20. The hand (slang)
21. Say further
22. Wager
23. Dis-ease of sheep
24. Chapeau
25. Sash (Jap.)
26. Mutters
27. Plat-form (naut.)
29. Media-val
31. Vexatious (colloq.)
32. Back finan-cially (slang)
33. Yellow fever mosquito
34. Songbirds
36. Biblical name
37. Sandaraa tree
38. Sound, as a crow
39. Wallaba