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Eagles Rip Oilers, Halt Shrinking of CHL Lead

By Dick Rosetta
Tribune Sports Writer

It has been a "behind closed doors" feeling which has permeated the Salt Lake Golden Eagles' premises over at the Salt Palace; that is, the Dallas Black Hawks were inching closer and closer to the Big Birds' domain at the top of the Central Hockey League standings.

So, when Eagles' goalie Terry Richardson gave his assessment of Monday night's 8-3 shellacking of the Tulsa Oilers, accomplished in front of 5,172 "Family Night" fans, he made note of the fact that "Dallas was within 11 points of us and now the margin is 13 points."

Actually, the Oilers turned out to be what the doctor ordered for the Eagles. When Tulsa came in Saturday, the Eagles had lost four in a row and had watched 10 points shaved off their once hefty CHL lead. But Saturday, the Oilers had the game in the bag before being tied with two seconds left and then Salt Lake put away a 5-4 overtime win.

Tulsa charged from the blocks again Monday, firing 13 shots at Richardson the first period, but the Eagles took 15 of their own and emerged with a 2-1 lead with Tulsa's lone goal coming from Rick Hodgson at 19:58.

The Oilers continued to pester the Eagles and it was a 3-2 game until defenseman Len Frig whacked in his 10th goal (tying an all-time season high for him) at the 19:58 mark of the second period. That one seemed to take the stuffing out of the Oklahoma visitors.

"I wouldn't say it did them in, but it did give us some momentum and we talked about it in the dressing room, that we should take advantage of it," Frig said. My, how the Eagles took advantage of it — consecutive goals by Gordie McTavish, Doug Palazzari, Floyd Thomson and Bob Hess to balloon the lead to 8-2.

"We just got back in our game that third period," Frig said, "dumping the puck in and forcing the play in their end. We were winning consistently with that system and just got out of it for awhile."

Winger McTavish agreed, but he credited his latest goal-scoring surge (he upped his total to 25) to the effectiveness of his line mates—center Doug Palazzari and left winger Bob Hess. "They skate so well and that gets my adrenalin flowing. They give me so many opportunities to score around the net that sometimes, it's hard to believe."

Palazzari was hard to believe as he scored two goals and added two assists to up his point total to 36 points in 22 games. The line (McTavish and Hess thrown in) was responsible for nine points.

Palazzari's tap-in goal and Rick Bowness' power play goal offset Hodgson's first-period goal; Gary Holt's nifty 25-foot backhander at 3:01 of the second and Frig's goal more than offset Bobby Simpson's power play goal which bounced in off Richardson's pads at 6:07. Then came the Eagles' final-period blitz which saw only Ken Kuzyk score for Tulsa.

"We skated much better and forechecked with more authority in the third period," coach Jack Evans mused. "Our passing was much better with some good 2-on-1 and 3-on-2 combinations really clicking. They (Tulsa) didn't exactly lay down. They had 13 shots that first period."

Salt Lake reduced its magic number for clinching the regular season title to eight. Any combination of Eagle wins or Dallas losses will bring the title to Salt Lake for the second time.

Former 'Cat Aide Seeks Win Over Y.

By Lex Hemphill
Tribune Sports Writer

Pete Barry will renew some Utah ties this weekend.

The former Weber State assistant coach, who had left his heart in San Francisco, returned to his home town this season to become an assistant to Dan Belluomini at the University of San Francisco.

Pete Barry

Now the West Coast Athletic Conference champions find themselves matched against the Western Athletic Conference champion, Brigham Young, in the second round of the NCAA tournament Saturday at 12:06 p.m. MST in Tucson. Suddenly, Barry's three years of experience in the state of Utah with the Weber State program may come in handy.

Neither the BYU coaching staff nor the USF staff have gotten to see the opponent Saturday. The Cougar coaches have seen just about everyone in the West Regional except the Dons, and Barry said the USF coaches haven't seen BYU this year.

Pete Saw 'Em

"All of us have been scrambling around getting films and scouting reports," said Barry, referring to himself, first-year head man Belluomini, and Mike Brown, the other assistant.

But Barry has the most familiarity with the BYU team. Last year, he was on the bench in the Marriott Center when Weber State lost an 81-76 decision to BYU. Obviously, the Cougar personnel has changed since then, with freshmen Fred Roberts and Devin Durrant moving in as starters.

"Of course, we scouted Fred and Devin at Weber State last year," said Barry.

In that Weber-BYU game a year ago, Barry got to see Danny Ainge score 19 points and Alan Taylor 14. Those might be the two Cougars that USF will have to worry about the most Saturday, Ainge because he's BYU's best player and Taylor because he's facing USF's best player, Bill Cartwright.

Cartwright is a 7-1 All-American center who leads the nation in rebounding. He is the leader of this 21-6 USF team and the player BYU will have to control.

"It's nice to have a player like Cartwright — he's a coach's dream," said Barry. "He's a great team leader and a great passer. We're basically a young team, and the young players look up to him. He's a great teacher for (freshman Wallace) Bryant."

Dons Haven't Peaked

USF is a young team because two outstanding players who still had a year of college eligibility remaining, Winford Boynes and James Hardy, opted to go to the pros via the hardship draft. So the Dons not only had to get over the loss of those two players but also had to make the transition in coaches from Bob Gaillard to Belluomini.

"Obviously, they're tremendous players," said Barry of Boynes and Hardy. "We had to make some adjustments early. In the first part of the season, it was a difficult process. But now we're just starting to reach our peak. Dan has been pleased with the last 10 games."

The Dons weren't bereft of experienced players after the departure of Hardy and Boynes. They still had Cartwright and 6-6 forward Doug Jemison. Billy Reid is a 6-4 guard who transferred from New Mexico and has been playing well.

The other two starters are young. Guy Williams is a 6-8 guard who Barry calls "an Earvin Johnson type." He is only a freshman, and the other starter is 6-8 forward Bart Bowers, a sophomore.

Dons Are Deep

"Dan really plays nine guys," pointed out Barry.

Among them are two prize freshmen — Bryant, a seven-footer from Indiana who is used as a strong forward, and 6-5 Ken McAllister from Oakland. The other reserves are 6-6 swingman Marvin DeLoatch and 6-2 Erik Gilberg.

As for the preparation for playing BYU, Barry knows that one of the problems facing the Dons is stopping the Cougars' transition game.

"We expect them to try to score in the 80s and 90s and get their open-court game going," said Barry.

Obviously, the Dons will be trying to avoid giving BYU too many easy baskets. In an interesting statistical match-up, USF ranks fourth in the nation in field goal percentage defense (42.2 percent), while BYU ranks fourth in the nation in field goal percentage offense (53.0).

—Tribune Staff Photo by John Reynolds

Pizza is squished! Salt Lake's Doug Palazzari (24) is hemmed against the boards by Tulsa's Gordon Buynak, an ex-Eagle, in heat of Monday's action.

Boyle Powers East to Win

Continued From Page C-1

air, swatted the ball to the floor and the buzzer sounded an end to the 32-minute drama. East's two-point victory was intact as was Boyle's pride.

"All I got was the ball," assured Boyle of his timely block. "It was just my height advantage that made the block possible. I had seen Bernardo go right past me too many times. That little guy is great."

Boyle's 10 fourth-quarter points and 15 total for the game were instrumental in the East triumph. Yet, it was his blocked shot just before the buzzer which had everyone talking.

Justice Prevails

"Justice has finally prevailed," said Milne, breathing a sigh of relief. "We finally got a clean blocked shot that was not called a foul, anyway. It was a beautiful block, but there were a couple just like that earlier which were called two-shot fouls. Boyle really showed a lot of heart. I had to sit him down, but he really played fine basketball in that fourth quarter."

Hillcrest coach Jim Jimas translated Bernardo's potential winning basket and the subsequent block differently, but Jimas displayed no sour grapes. "I thought it was a foul, but I don't begrudge the officials for not making the call," explained Jimas. "The officials called a fine game, and even if the call at the end was made, Mike still would have had to make the free throws. What really hurt us was when we were outscored 17-4 in the first half. That was the game. The end wasn't the game."

Jimas' appraisal was correct.

Hillcrest burst to a 6-0 lead to begin the game. However, Grant and Gremillion—who poured in 21 and 16 points, respectively—found almost free rein underneath to help East outscore the Huskies, 17-4, during a seven-minute period which extended into the second quarter.

First 10 points

Bernardo, the 5-9 dynamo, scored Hillcrest's first 10 points in the second period. Yet, the Huskies fell behind 34-20 and East appeared ready to make it a runaway. But Hillcrest then reeled off 10 unanswered points and outscored the Leopards, 12-2, during the closing 2:21 of the second quarter to trim the halftime deficit to 36-33.

A Bernardo three-point play gave Hillcrest a 38-38 deadlock with 5:54 to play in the third period. Then, after the lead changed hands seven times, DeMarco swished a 17-foot jumper to supply the Huskies with the 46-45 third-quarter edge.

DeMarco was the only Hillcrest player, outside of DeMarco, to reach double figures with 13 points. East's Boyle totaled 15 for the game.

Here's 4-A Glance

Here is an update on the Class 4-A high school basketball tournament being held at the University of Utah's Special Events Center:

Monday's Results

West 69, Weber 58 (consolation)
East 65, Hillcrest 63 (championship)
Brighton 73, Bingham 49 (consolation)
Roy 55, Skyline 48 (championship)

Tuesday's Schedule

Granger vs. Sky View, 2:30 p.m. (consolation)
Layton vs. Orem, 4:10 p.m. (championship)
Viewmont vs. Cottonwood, 6:30 p.m. (consolation)
Highland vs. Clearfield, 8:10 p.m. (championship)

Friday's Schedule

Skyline vs. Hillcrest, 11:50 a.m. (consolation)
Brighton vs. West, 1:30 p.m. (consolation)
Roy vs. East, 3:10 p.m. (championship)
Highland-Clearfield loser vs. Layton-Orem loser, 5:30 p.m. (consolation)
Viewmont-Cottonwood winner vs. Granger-Sky View winner, 7:10 p.m. (consolation)
Highland-Clearfield winner vs. Layton-Orem winner, 8:50 p.m. (championship)

To Manage at Ogden

A's Get Serious, Choose Pagan

By Lex Hemphill
Tribune Sports Writer

The Ogden A's of the Pacific Coast League Monday named former National League infielder Jose Pagan as their manager for the team's first year in the league.

"We're very, very pleased — we got a highly qualified person," said A's general manager Stan Perry.

The Ogden club, the Triple-A affiliate of Charlie Finley's Oakland A's, had announced last week that Ed Nottle would be the club's manager. Ogden team president Dennis Job made the move because Finley, who had just made the apparently Ogden-bound Jim Marshall his major league manager in the past month, had not taken action in naming his Triple-A manager.

However, Nottle had already signed to manage Oakland's Double-A farm club in Waterbury, Conn., and so Pagan was named in what Job called "a mutual agreement between Oakland and myself."

"It wouldn't have been fair to take him away from the other job," said Job of the Nottle situation. "That really would have upset the applecart in Waterbury."

"Nottle would have done a heckuva job here, but Jose is a heckuva person too. We talked it over with Finley and Norm Koselke (the Oakland farm director) and I agreed with the situation. Jose is a qualified person."

The 43-year-old Pagan is a native of Puerto Rico and has managed winter ball there. Last summer, he served as a coach on Chuck Tanner's staff with the Pittsburgh Pirates.

Pagan had a 15-year major-league career that began in 1959 with the San Francisco Giants and ended in 1973 with Philadelphia. The versatile infielder had a lifetime batting average of .250.

He was the Giants' regular shortstop from 1961 through 1964 and had his best year with them in 1962, when he hit .259 for the National League champions. He was peddled to Pittsburgh in the middle of the 1965 season and was used mostly as a reserve through the 1972 season. He played sparingly in 1973 with the Phillies.

Pagan was a useful reserve in Pittsburgh, hitting .289 in 1967 and .285 in 1969. He was a member of the Pirates' 1971 World Series championship club.

"I worked with him for four years when I was the Giants' regular batting practice pitcher," said Perry. "I knew him well. We feel fortunate to have him."

Perry noted that Pagan has earned a reputation for "doing well with younger players."

So the Ogden club finally has a manager for a team that will open play next month.

Perry pointed out that Job "was not trying to throw his weight around" when he named Nottle manager last week, but his aim to shake Finley out of his apparent procrastination on naming a manager apparently was achieved Monday with the naming of Pagan.

Perry said it was especially important for the club to name a manager as early as possible because it is a first-year operation, and the team needed to establish an identity with the fans.

So now the Ogden A's may be identified with Jose Pagan.

World of Sports

Vezie Gets Ax As SDSU Hoop Coach

Tribune Wire Services

San Diego State University basketball coach **Tim Vezie** was fired Monday, two days after a special faculty investigator was named to look into alleged special favors given to his players.

Outgoing Athletic Director Ken Karr, with whom Vezie has had a rocky relationship, said SDSU President Thomas Day agreed with his recommendation to fire Vezie after a "normal end-of-the-season evaluation of his position."

Vezie, whose team went 15-12 overall in its first year in the Western Athletic Conference, had a five-year record of 77-62 with the Aztecs.

Newspaper reports last week of former SDSU players' allegations of recruiting violations spurred Day to order an internal investigation of the matter, headed by chemistry professor James Malik. Vezie denied the charges after they appeared in Friday's Los Angeles Times.

Utah State's **Dean Hunger** was named to the first team of the Pacific Coast Athletic Association's all-star basketball squad Monday. Aggies Brian Jackson and Keith McDonald were named to the second team.

Joining Hunger on the all-PCAA first team were league MVP Ron Cornelius and Terence Carney of champion Pacific, Calvin Roberts of Cal State Fullerton, Art Williams of Fresno State, and Rickey Williams of Long Beach State.

In college basketball Monday, **DePaul**, which would meet Utah State Sunday in Los Angeles if the Aggies get past Southern Cal Friday, closed its regular season at 22-5 after being upset by Loyola at Chicago, 101-99. Mark Aguirre scored 45 points in a losing effort for the Demons. Larry Knight led the Ramblers with 37.

Star forward **DeWayne Scales** was suspended from the Louisiana State basketball team Monday for having repeated contacts with a professional player agent and lying to his coach about it. Scales will not play in LSU's NCAA opener Saturday against Appalachian State.

"In my 23 years of coaching, this has to be the most difficult decision I have ever made," said LSU coach Dale Brown, the former Utah State assistant. "I believe that interference by sources outside our basketball family have forced us to make this decision. I am deeply saddened and I regret I do not have the power to penalize those who have disrupted our basketball team."

Scales can return to the LSU team during the 1979-80 season.

Injury Alters Ring Prelim

A training camp injury to Toni Pulu has forced a change in the preliminary card for the world featherweight boxing championship fight card Saturday at the Salt Palace.

The 15-round main event, pitting the champ, Danny (Little Red) Lopez, against the No. 1 challenger, Roberto Castanon of Spain, goes on at 3 p.m.

Sione Against Freddie

The opener at 2:15 p.m. matches Sione Pulu against Freddie News, who is attempting a comeback after being stopped by Toni Pulu.

Steve Huntington, the unbeaten West Jordan boxer, is matched against Darrell Patterson of Roy in a six-rounder.

Cookie Valencia of Ogden hopes to improve his national stature at the expense of Tavaro Hernandez in the semi-windup.

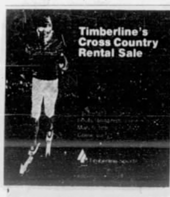
Both Lopez and Castanon will be sparring and working out the early part of the week in the training camp on the second floor of the Salt Palace. Lopez works from 2 to 4 p.m. and Castanon from 4 to about 6 p.m.

Weigh-in Saturday

The fighters will weigh in before the Utah Boxing Commission Saturday.

Lopez was introduced to members of the Utah Legislature Monday and will be visiting patients in the area hospitals during the week.

To compensate for the loss of the Pulu bout, the promoters announced Oscar Muniz had signed to fight Catalino Flores of the Philippines. Muniz has been working as a sparring partner in the training camp, but he ranks as the No. 5 bantamweight in the U.S.



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