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# TIGER SPECIAL!

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## TIGERS END WCAC RACE CO-CHAMPIONS

By ROGER NADEL

The race has ended—possibly the most dramatic race anywhere in the nation, and it finds the West Coast Athletic Conference championship shared by the University of the Pacific Tigers and the Santa Clara Broncos. Though the playoff Monday night decided the representative to the NCAA Regional championships, the league race ended in a dead heat, with both teams sporting 11-3 records in conference, and 21-5 marks overall.

The Tigers fought back from a one game disadvantage last Saturday night to defeat the SC Broncos 71-60 in the league finale at the Stockton Civic Auditorium.

### DEATH MATCH

The victory forced a sudden death match two nights ago between the same two squads in a game played at the University of San Francisco gym, over the protest of the UOP athletic department, which requested that the game be moved to the Oakland Coliseum, a more neutral site with twice the seating capacity. League Commissioner Father Winfred Crowley refused the protest for reasons known only to himself, and the game was played in San Francisco at the Jesuit institution.

### THURSDAY'S ACTION

The Tigers lost to USF last Thursday night, as the Dons slowed down the game to almost a walk, before taking a last second (actually a last 14 second) 59-58 victory away from the Bengals.

Scoring for Pacific was led by forward Joel Perisho, who tallied a career high of 18 points. He was followed by the other starting forward Bill Stricker, who chipped in 15 points. These two Tigers together accounted for over half the total scoring for UOP.

While Pacific was losing to USF, the Santa Clara Broncos maintained their WCAC lead, as they defeated the St. Mary's Gaels 113-73. Scoring for the Broncos was led by Ralph Ogden, who tallied 33 for the night. This gave Ogden an average of 32 points in each of his last four games prior to the UOP-SCU contest. The stage was set for the final match in Stockton.

### ALL OR NOTHING

Tickets for the UOP-SCU game had been sold out to the public for over two months. When tickets were made available to students on Thursday morning, they sold out in less than three hours. Think about it—940 tickets gone in three hours—that's over 5 tickets per minute picked up. And that leaves us with a number (about 300) of standing-room only tickets which were also swarmed over. But this was an all-or-nothing ballgame; either we won and forced a Monday playoff, or we summarized how nice a season it almost was.

### TEAMS' RECORDS

Santa Clara entered the game with a 21-4 record, including an 11-2 league mark; 10-3 in league. The records are among the best in the country—there are teams such as Drake, who beat the Tigers in December 78-76, who are rated 9th in the nation and they had lost six games, including one to USF.

Both teams were cold and unrelaxed as the game began, and after six minutes of play the score was tied at only 6-6. In fact, the whole first half was tense and uneasy, as Pacific shot only 27 percent, and Santa Clara not much better at a poor 30 percent, but the Tigers had the halftime lead due to some excellent foul shooting, led by Stricker's seven straight.

One more thing to keep in mind—Pacific is almost unbeatable when playing in the Stockton Civic Auditorium. In two seasons they have lost only one game, and prior to the Santa Clara game they had won twelve straight at home.

With this record in mind (and some personal guts), they returned from the halftime break and surged in to a 12-point lead, which they never relinquished. The closest Santa Clara could get in the second half was within seven points, but crucial rebounding by John Gianelli (12 for the night) and Joel Perisho (game total of 10) would not allow Santa Clara to get the extra tip-ins they so sorely needed.

### "MY TEAM'S TOUGHER..."

When the Broncos decided that the game was out of reach,

they resorted to the age-old method of proving their skill by becoming physical. With just minutes remaining, Bronco reserve guard Keith Paulson bumped into Tiger Robbie Sperring, and then decided that it felt so good he'd try it with his fist, which he trajected into Sperring's jaw.

This incident, as usual, precipitated the usual crowd mobbing the floor routine, but things were just about under control until Santa Clara "coach" Dick Garibaldi decided mentally that he didn't like the idea of his player (Paulson) being ejected because Sperring moved his jaw in front of Paulson's outstretched fist.

This mature maneuver on Garibaldi's part was almost followed by an attempt at fist-cuffs with Tiger coach Edwards, who seemed rather amused at the Santa Clara coach's behavior.

Order was eventually restored, and the Tigers had their 71-60 victory over the Broncos. It set the stage for the Monday showdown, the winner of which would go to Seattle tomorrow night to face the Utah State Ag-

gies, who beat the University of Texas at El Paso last Saturday night 91-81.

### WCAC STANDINGS FINAL

1. PACIFIC	11	3
1. Santa Clara	11	3
3. U.Nevada, Las Vegas	9	5
3. U.S.F.	9	5
5. Loyola	7	7
5. Pepperdine	7	7
7. U. Nevada, Reno	2	12
8. St. Mary's	0	14

### Point Totals at Season's End

	Points	Ave.
Bill Stricker	569	22.7
John Gianelli	483	18.5
Bob Thomason	319	12.7
Robbie Sperring	292	11.3
Joel Perisho	228	8.7
Bill Clapperton	97	3.7
Peter Jensen	75	3.1
Don Miller	56	2.4
Pat Douglass	48	2.2
Tom Jones	51	2.2
Paul Scheidegger	32	2.0
Roy Ghiggeri	14	.9
Pacific Totals	2265	87.1
Opposition Totals	1902	74.3

Despite a frantic second-half comeback effort, the UOP Tigers dropped a 65-56 decision to the Santa Clara Broncos in San Francisco Monday night. As a result of their win, Santa Clara advances to the NCAA regional semi-finals against Utah State Thursday.

BOX SCORE			
UOP		SCU	
Gianelli	16	Ogden	23
Stricker	13	Eagleson	13
Thomason	11	Botcke	9
Jones	8	Awtry	8
Perisho	4	Spight	6
Sperring	2	Peterson	2
Clapperton	2		
TOTALS	56		65

### Tiger Five All Nor-Cal

The entire University of the Pacific starting line-up has been honored by the Northern California sportswriters in the annual All-Northern California Basketball teams.

Pacific was represented by senior forward Bill Stricker, who was selected on the first team. Following Stricker were center John Gianelli, a sophomore from Stockton, and junior guard Bob Thomason, who placed on the second team.

The other two starters, senior forward Joel Perisho and junior guard Robbie Sperring, were both awarded honorable mention by the Northern California scribes.

### Frosh Beat SC 86-82

The University of the Pacific Freshman Basketball team closed out their season last Saturday night at the expense of the Santa Clara freshman team by taking a hard fought and very emotional 86-82 victory.

Leading the scoring for the Ti-Cats was 6'3" forward Mike Cloyd, who scored 19 points in his final frosh game. He was followed by guards John Joshua and Dave Kistler, who each chipped in 16, followed by center Joe Linneman with 13, forward Jim McCargo with 12, and Ossie Noble with 10, as the first six players all scored in double figures against Santa Clara.

Coach Denis Willens and his assistant Pat Foley have ended this season with a record of 13-9, and finished with a real gutsy effort. Willens and his men were represented on the All Northern Cal frosh team by Jim McCargo.



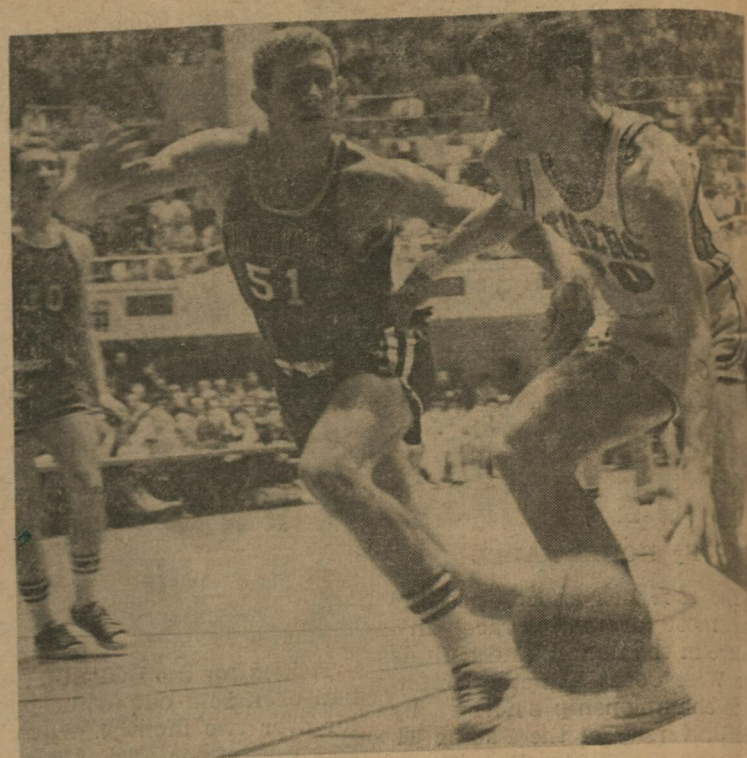
Tiger coach Dick Edwards, who in his seven years at Pacific has compiled a 131-55 record, was named Northern California Coach of the Year by the Northern California sportswriters. This is the third time Edwards has been so rewarded for his

duties of leading the UOP basketball teams, and the first time since the era of Keith Swagerty, who retired his jersey three years ago. The last two seasons the award has been given to Santa Clara mentor Dick Garibaldi.

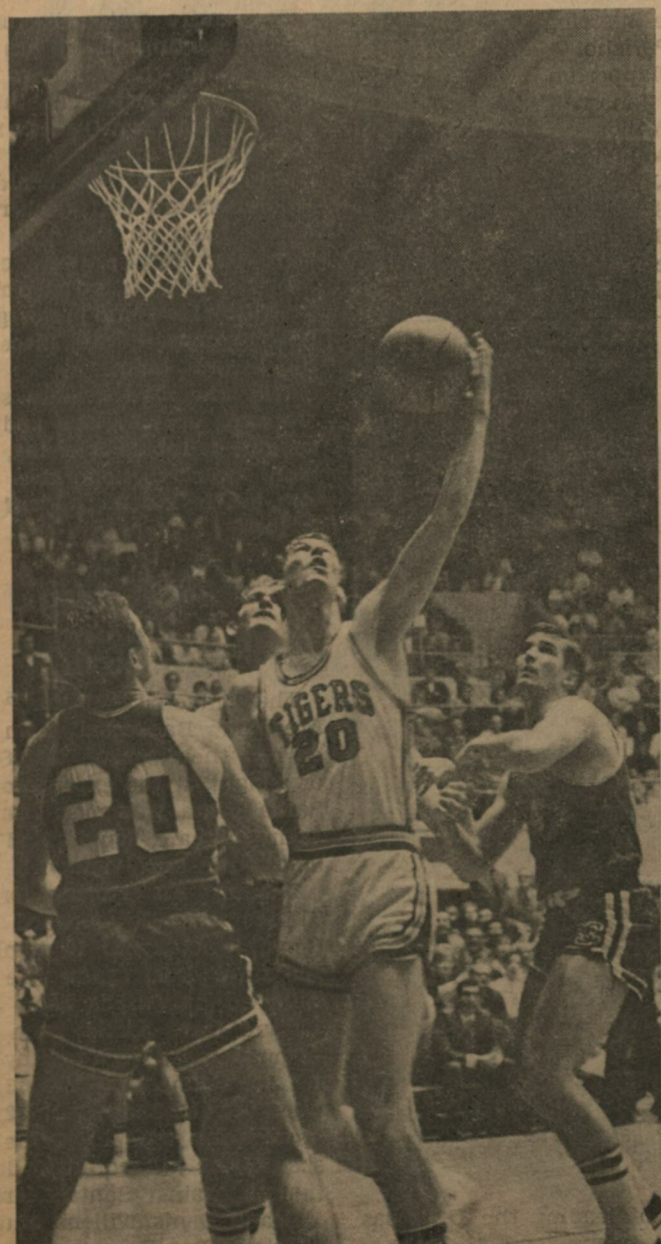




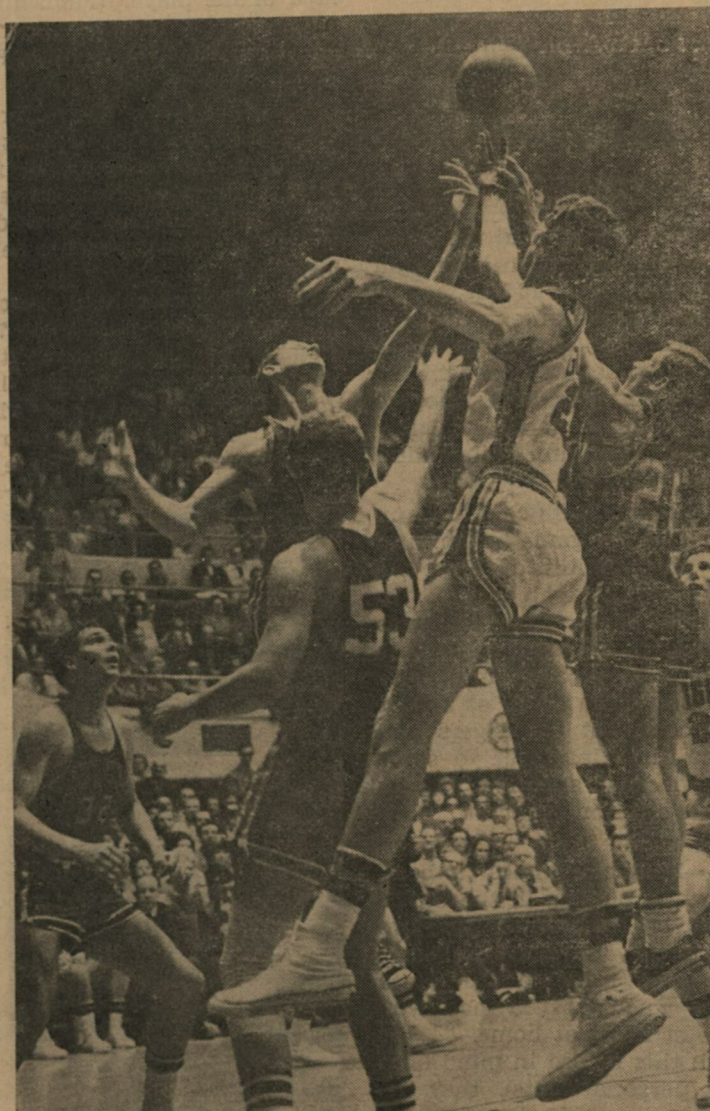
RALPH OGDEN restrains Joe Perisho during a center jump. Tigers Bill Stricker and Bill Clapperton note Ogden's hand on Perisho's arm, as does the referee.



DRIVING FOR A LAYUP is Pacific's leading scorer, forward Bill Stricker. He is being watched, though not guarded, by Bronco forward Mart Peterson (51), with guard Jolly Spight barely in the shot. Tigers took a hard-fought 71-60 win over SCU.



BILL STRICKER LAYS IN ANOTHER two points on his way to maintaining his 23-point per game average.



THREE AGAINST ONE, but UOP center John Gianelli seems to have the upper hand over Santa Clara players Mart Peterson, Dennis Awtrey (53), and Kevin Eagleson (20). Gianelli's 17 points helped the Tigers on to a 71-60 win last Saturday night to force the Monday night playoff.

—Holt photo



TOM "HOOKS" JONES and his soft touch hook shot accounted for two points over Santa Clara's Dennis Awtrey. With this basket Jones moved into the number 9 position in career scoring at UOP.