

ATHLETICS

THE YEAR'S SPORTS

The year 1924, when it dawned upon Stockton High School in September, presented no promises of a successful athletic season.

The football squad had been robbed of its lustre by the graduation of the talented class of '23; and the men who were expected to mold Stockton's grid-iron destinies were so inexperienced, their abilities so unknown, that the Blue and White future successes were totally hidden by a disheartening cloud of uncertainty. Nor did the other sports possess a more promising aspect than the pigskin pastime, for the great basket ball machines of former years had passed on and left but a single veteran in their places; and the track, baseball, and swimming squads had each suffered accordingly.

But the athletic coaches jerked the Tarzan adherents out of the pits of despondency when, with a display of their sterling abilities, they molded the undeveloped material into some of the most formidable teams that ever graced the campus of Stockton High School.

Such results attained under such severe handicaps stand pre-eminent as a monument to the dauntless spirit of the students of this school, and as a goal toward which future students should forever aim.



COACHES



VARSITY FOOTBALL TEAM

FOOTBALL

The year 1924 has witnessed football, the one sport in which Stockton seemed most unable to win, flourish as it has not before in years. The "Washington system", inaugurated but last year by Coach Hanley, came into its own under Coach McKay.

Stockton lost but one game this year after playing through a long and hard schedule, a record which no previous team can boast of since American football was readopted. And, what is more, the class of 1924 not only can boast of a great team, but can also claim that, although it possessed brilliant players on the squad, it also left more promising material behind than any previous class.

The football games of 1924:

ALUMNI GAME

Stockton, 20; Alumni, 6.

For the first time in the history of Stockton High School, a football game was staged between the high school team and the varsity stars of years gone by; and, to the surprise of the "dopesters," the varsity walked off with the game by a margin of 20 to 6.

The alumni shot their bolt at the beginning of the game, and after those first transient moments had passed, the shining lights on the "old timers" aggregation, who had thrilled many a throng with their brilliant plays of yesterday, gradually blinked out; and Stockton High School's present sons, with a crashing determined drive, swept on to a glorious well-earned victory.

Stockton, 35; Fresno Tech, 6.

Behind a dynamic, impetuous line that plunged through the opposing forwards with savage abandon, the Stockton backfield, led by their dashing captain Sousa and hard-hitting Moyes, crashed through the bright scarlet ranks of Fresno Tech. for the ultimate score of 35 to 6, in the second game of the 1923 season.

The work of the Blue and White line was a revelation, and every man on the forward wall shared in the glory. The Fresno backfield had no chance to show its real worth, because it was always hurried by the Tarzan linesmen who would break through and smear the opposing interference almost before it could form.

Stockton, 0; Lodi, 12.

The Lodi game, the game that every Blue and White partisan realized would decide the sub-league championship, was lost to the lads from the land of the Tokay by a 12 to 0 score, in one of the bitterest, most heart-breaking gridiron encounters ever staged on a local field.

Time after time the fighting Cavemen drove the Grape-eaters back only to have their chances for a score wiped out by a fumble of which their wily and capable opponents gladly took advantage.

Orville Moyes played marvelous football for Stockton, his terrific line plunges being the only dependable local means of advancing the ball. The Lodi team made both of their touchdowns by wisely punting and waiting for the "breaks," and the "breaks" won the game for them.

Stockton, 3; Sacramento, 0.

For five long years the Sacramento Senators had heaped defeat after defeat on the humble brows of the Blue and White elevens until the avenging team of '24 invaded the very domains of the haughty Purple, and after driving the Solons all over their field, sent them down to a 3 to 0 defeat.

The playing was almost always in Sacramento territory, but the Cavemen could not put over a touchdown. Three times the Blues forced the Purples to dig their cleats into their last chalk mark only to have Bennie Bava miss an easy field goal on fourth down, but in the fourth try Bennie made good, and with but two minutes of the game remaining, the Senators were doomed. The whole Blue team worked wonderfully except when almost over their opponents' goal line, and there all of their "punch" seemed to be gone, or the score would have been Stockton, 28; Sacramento, 0.

Stockton, 13; Woodland, 7.

Playing the time-honored game of "kick and wait for the breaks," Coach McKay's battling Blues won over the Woodland Wolves in one of the most exciting games of the year by the score of 13 to 7.

Stockton outplayed Woodland far more than the score would indicate, for the Tarzans were on their opponents' three-yard line as the first half ended, and on their twenty-five-yard line as the game closed.

The Caveman line, whose great work was so evident in other games, seemed to have an off day, and it was the Blue and White backfield that garnered all of the glory. Nevertheless two linemen made Stockton's first touchdown—Archie Henry blocked a punt and Bush scooped up the ball and ran for the touchdown.

Stockton's second touchdown was the result of great work by the whole team in general, and Ernie George in particular, who finally scored on a wide end run.

Stockton, 6; Modesto, 0.

In a fourth quarter rally, the Blues prevented the Modesto game's resulting in a 0-0 tie. Stockton had only two chances to score. Failing on the first one, she fought harder for the second, and a long pass, Bava to George, resulted in the score's being 6-0.

Stockton, 34; Grass Valley, 0.

The Stockton High School gridiron machine went into the Grass Valley game on high, and scored enough points in the first few moments of play to win the contest, which finally ended in a 34 to 0 victory for the fighting Cavemen.

The Blue and White eleven for the first time showed a real smashing offense, with the result that the mountain lads were swept off their feet from the initial whistle until the final gun. The game was featured by the hard tackling of the Stockton team, particularly that of Arata and George.

The Grass Valley boys did not show much ability to play consistent football, and their frequent fumbles deprived them of the ball when they did seem to be playing well. But maybe, after all, it was the brilliant playing of Stockton that made the mountain lads look so weak.

Stockton, 16; Turlock, 0.

The curtain dropped on the 1924 football season as the final gun ended the Stockton-Turlock game on the Oak Park gridiron, which resulted in a 16 to 0 victory for the fighting Blues.

Brilliant playing was the order of the day, and at some time during the game nearly every man of the field occupied the spotlight, but the man that shone most brightly of all was "Dolly" Irving Pahl, Stockton's big left tackle, whose playing both on offense and defense was nothing short of phenomenal.

The Turlock team looked good at times, but when they became dangerous, the Stockton defense tightened, and the Melon-Eaters could not gain an inch. Once the Cantaloupes were on the Tarzans' two-yard with four downs to make a score, but the Blues shone in all of their defensive glory, and stopped the next four plays at the line of scrimmage.

Bennie Bava brought the game to a never-to-be-forgotten conclusion when, standing on the fifty-yard line, he sent the inflated oval through the bars for enough points to win the game.

Thus ended one of the greatest and most successful football seasons that Stockton High School has ever experienced. One defeat on such a calendar of glorious triumphs does not in the least detract from the ability of this year's team—a team that lost its first league game, and then rose Phoenix-like from the ashes of defeat to soar to the heights of victory.

May the teams of the future repeat this team's victories and blot out its defeat.





SECOND FOOTBALL TEAM

"LITTLE TARZANS" FOOTBALL TEAM

The "Class B" football team of Stockton High School went through their entire 1924 campaign without once suffering a defeat.

The coaching of assistant coaches Pease and Gavigan can never sufficiently be repaid by written commendation, but the record of the "Little Tarzans" is a silent testimonial to the abilities of their coaches.

The second team's record:

Stockton, 32; Sonora, 13.

October 20, 1923.

Although they were the lighter team, the Stockton Class B gridiron prides displayed a greater drive and a stauncher defense than did Sonora's boys, and thereby neatly trimmed the latter's varsity by the score of 32 to 13. Kenyon and Davis looked good for Stockton.

Stockton, 19; Sutter Creek, 0.

November 2, 1923.

By relying on their speed to carry them to victory, the Cavemen white-washed their Sutter Creek opponents on their own rocky field by the score of 19 to 0. Calcaterra, Stockton's left half, played a great game and made all of the Blue and White touchdowns.

Stockton, 47; Jackson, 7.

November 10, 1923.

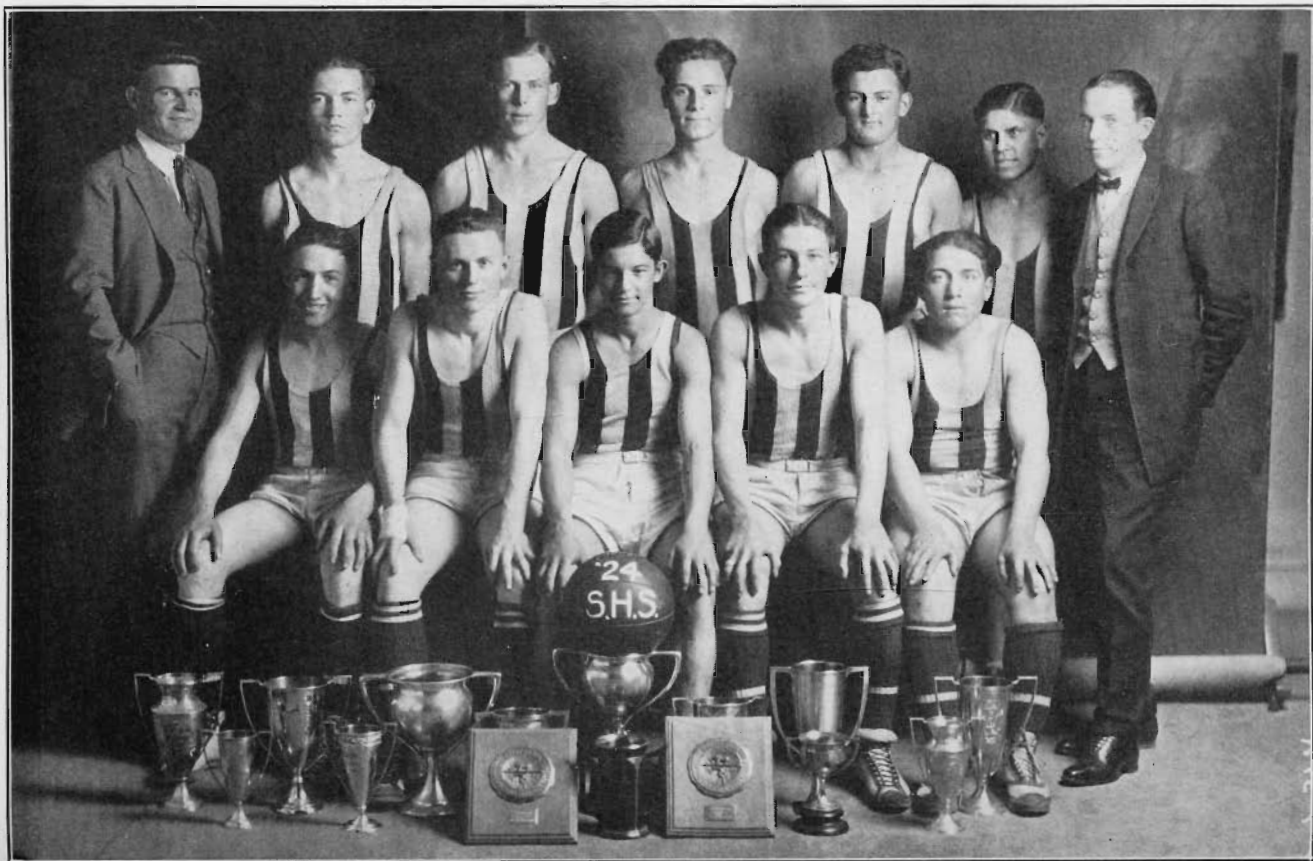
Stockton's "Little Tarzans," after trailing behind Jackson's football team in the first quarter, came from behind in a blaze of offensive glory as brilliant as the autumn sun o'erhead, and won their second consecutive league title and their white sweaters by savagely plowing their way through the mountain boys for the one-sided score of 47 to 7. Davis was the big scoring star for Stockton.

Stockton, 7; San Juan, 7.

November 16, 1923.

Bravely facing a team that out-weighed them twenty points to a man, Coach Pease's "Little Tarzans" fought through a bitter game on a field of soft red sand for the championship of Northern California, only to have the game end in a 7 to 7 tie.

The Pease-men played wonderful football in the early part of the game, crossing their opponents' last chalk line in the first two minutes of play. But the San Juan boys came back with a fine display of spirit and tied the count in the latter part of the game. Thus both squads may lay claim to the regal robes of northern California Class B football.



VARSITY BASKET BALL TEAM

BASKET BALL, 1924

The 1924 basket ball season was not ushered into Stockton High School so cheerfully as the seasons of former years, for it seemed that at last the Stockton Tarzans, the pride of the Golden State, were doomed for the most disastrous program in the history of the school. But Harry B. Lenz, the coach who has played such a prominent part in the Blue and White's basket ball successes during the last five years, needed just such a crisis to bring out his sterling qualities, and in a manner that was a revelation to the most optimistic rooster, he molded an inexperienced team into a combination that completely upset all predictions by winning the championship of Central California before the plucky group fell in the contest with Auburn for the Northern title.

The team of 1924 lacked the stars that graced the lineups of such marvelous scoring machines as Stockton High School possessed in '22 and '23, and had to be content with a strong defensive game, which naturally had less and less chance for success as the opposition became harder and harder. Nevertheless it took a great team to beat those fighting sons of Stockton High.

The varsity squad of 1924: forwards—Sousa, Berg, Caviglia, Bava, Sweet, George; center—Bush; guards—Calcaterra, Barsi, Pahl.

Stockton, 28; Oakdale, 17.

December 14, 1923.

Stockton High School opened the 1924 basket ball season in promising fashion by sweeping Oakdale off her own court with a 28 to 17 score. No Oakdale players had many opportunities to score, but even if they had had, their shooting was woefully weak.

Stockton, 27; Modesto, 14.

January 4, 1924.

Stockton High School's basket ball team started on its drive for a third consecutive state title on its home court when the Modesto High School boys were sent reeling back to their milk pails to the tune of 27 to 14. The first quarter was fiercely contested and ended with the Blue and White holding grimly to a 4 to 2 lead. During the intermission, however, a stronger Stockton lineup was put on the floor, and the Modesto quintet was hopelessly out-classed during the rest of the game.

Stockton, 32; Preston, 26.

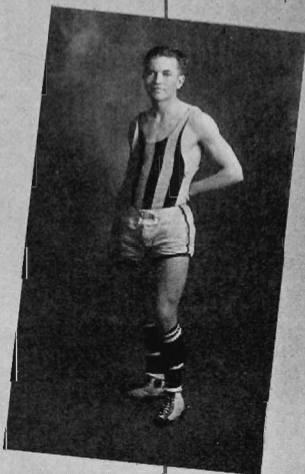
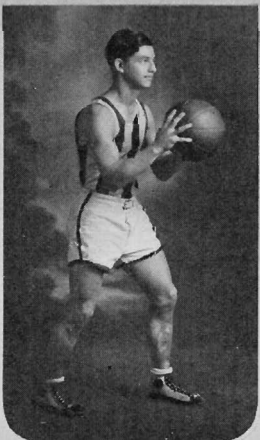
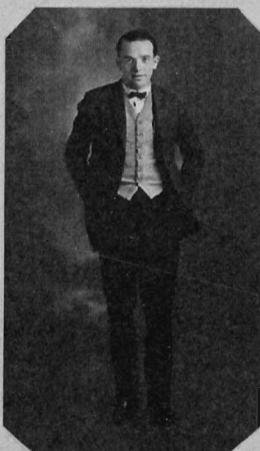
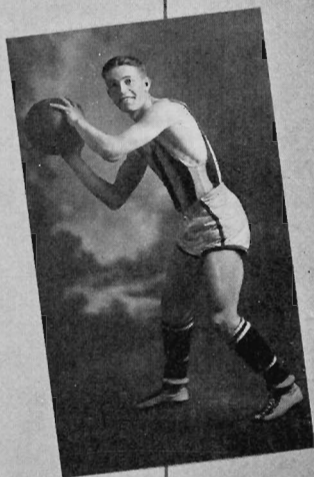
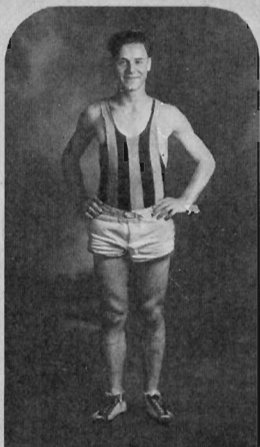
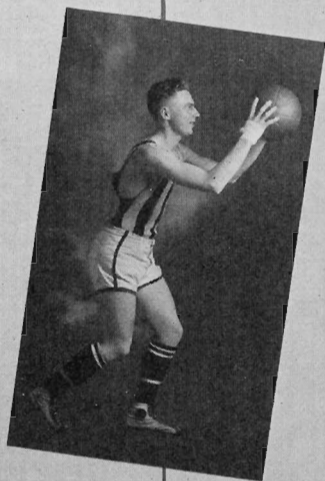
January 9, 1924.

Although the Preston quintet played the fastest floor game, the Stockton Cavemen sent them home on the short end of a 32 to 26 count because the Tarzans knew how to put the ball through the hoop. Preston had a fast passing combination, but it was a one-man scoring quintet and therefore failed to operate smoothly because of the close guarding of the Tarzans. Berg and Bava starred for Stockton.

Stockton, 32; Sacramento, 24.

January 11, 1924.

Dazed by an irresistible Sacramento drive that threatened to put an end to their long basket ball reign, the Stockton Tarzans were yanked from the



BASKETBALL

pits of despair by little "Red" Berg, who broke into the game as a substitute and proceeded to shoot his way into the hearts of the Stockton rooters and his "alma mater" by helping to pile up a 32 to 24 victory over the Capital City boys on the local high school court.

The game was a tightly guarded affair throughout the entire first half. At quarter time Stockton led 2 to 0, and at half time the locals still led 9 to 8. But during the second half the Tarzans, aided by Berg's beautiful shooting, left their opponents by a safe margin. Sacramento had many tries at the basket, but sheer hard luck kept them from breaking more often into the score column.

Stockton, 19; Fresno, 18.

January 19, 1924.

Coming from behind, with a characteristic rally, the Stockton Lenzmen scored ten points in the final quarter of play, thereby nosing out Fresno Tech. by the close score of 19 to 18.

The defensive strength of Fresno was very evident until the beginning of the final quarter. At that time the Sun-Maids were leading by the apparently safe score of 16 to 9, but that last savage Tarzan onslaught was too much for their defense to withstand, and the final result was another victory for Stockton High School's fighting basketeers.

This was the last game before the opening of the C. I. F. season against Lodi on the home court. The outlook for the league games was somewhat brighter than at the beginning of the season because of the rapid improvement of the team, but still Stockton was not even granted an outside chance of defeating the veteran Tokay Quintet.

Stockton, 15; Lodi, 13.

February 2, 1924.

With but one quarter remaining before the final gun, with their scarlet-hued opponents in possession of a two-point lead, with the prayers of their rooters to "Fight! Fight!" ringing in their ears, the blue-and-white striped Cavemen of Stockton High School came from behind in a last desperate, dazzling finish and forced the over-confident Lodi Tokays to bow their heads to a stinging 15 to 13 defeat, on the local floor, in the first league game of the 1924 season.

The Stockton quintet was behind—far behind—throughout most of the game, but as the end neared, the continued fight of the Blues began to slow down the Lodi combination, until the last, in the final two minutes of play, the Lenzmen forged ahead for the first time during the evening, and held that meager one-point lead until the final gun sounded.

The entire team played a marvelous game, never giving up hope even when they seemed hopelessly outclassed, and their spirit won for them the all-important encounter.

Stockton, 18; Lodi, 14.

February 8, 1924.

The second game of the Stockton-Lodi series may best be remembered

as almost an exact duplicate of the first game. Once again Lodi took the lead from the initial whistle, once again that lead seemed to be too great to overcome, but once again those fighting sons of Stockton High School did overcome it and established their superiority more firmly than in the first encounter by whipping Lodi on her own court with an 18 to 14 score.

Carlo Sousa, who was a big factor in the first Stockton victory, was once again the star in the offensive department; but in the defensive side of Stockton's game, the star was George Barsi, husky Tarzan standing guard.

Though the brilliancy of other athletic contests may dim with the flight of years, those two basket ball clashes with Lodi in 1924 will always hold anyone who witnessed them utterly captivated with the tense uncertainty of their fleeting moments, the display of school spirit that urged both teams on to greater efforts, and the unflinching "heart" of the team that bore Stockton High School's colors on to victory.

Stockton, 26; Galt, 14.

February 29, 1924.

The Galt High School quintet, the pride of Yolo and Sacramento counties, next had the misfortune to cross the path of the blood-thirsty Tarzans, and although the lads from the north played a game that only a desperate losing team can play, they were decisively vanquished by the score of 26 to 14—a score that belies the closeness of the early part of the game.

The game was a whirlwind affair from the first whistle with unintentional roughness marking the play of both sides. Galt scored first on a free throw, but Bush tied the count a few moments later in the same manner, and the Blue and White secured a 4 to 1 lead as the first quarter ended. The outcome of the game was doubtful well into the third quarter, when at one time Stockton was barely leading by the score of 16 to 12; but from that time until the final gun the game was all for the Tarzans, the victors scoring ten points to their opponents' two.

The Stockton star of the evening was little "Red" Berg, who shot six field goals; while Galt's luminary was Captain Callanchini, who was the whole offense of the "Redshirts."

Stockton, 23; Modesto, 11.

March 7, 1924.

By displaying a beautiful passing and shooting game that baffled the opposition from the initial whistle, the Stockton Blues swept onward to their fortieth consecutive basket ball victory and another Central California championship by trimming the Modesto quintet by the score of 23 to 11.

Not one of the five victorious Tarzans seemed to be individually inclined, and the result was that Stockton displayed the best teamwork of the season. "Red" Berg, as usual, was the shooting star of the evening, being credited with fifteen of Stockton's twenty-three points. The other four men, however, all starred defensively, and the quality of their play is shown by the small Modesto score, consisting of three field goals and five free-throw points.

Stockton, 16; Auburn, 30.

March 7, 1924.

The Auburn game—the game that was such a surprise to the faithful Stockton rooters who could see nothing but the smooth path of Success stretching out before the fighting five of '24, the game that brought out the real spirit of Stockton's great team—ended with the Blue and White quintet gazing sadly upon a scoreboard that marked the end of the trail, the end of their long series of uninterrupted victories, a scoreboard whose simple message was Auburn, 30; Stockton, 16.

The Tarzans played the best game they knew how to play, but they could not hit the basket, and their celebrated defense collapsed before the smashing offense of the mountain lads. Berg, the offensive star of every other game, failed to make a point, and the rest of the team, with one exception, played accordingly. The one Stockton boy who played up to expectations was Clarence Bush, Stockton's high-point man of the evening.

The team was somewhat weakened by the loss of the injured Sousa, but in the latter part of the game, Sousa went into the fray with an untaped broken finger in a desperate, futile attempt to stem the Auburn onslaught, and despite the physical handicap and the short time he played, Sousa ranked next to Bush in the scoring column.

Brilliant individual work, however, could not offset organized team-play; and Stockton, with hardly an asset but its characteristic spirit, fought grimly on to lose nobly to a greater team.

And so the curtain dropped on Stockton High School's 1924 basket ball season, a season that was a triumph even though it ended in disaster, for the undimmed splendor of those victories that gained for the Blue and White a Central California basket ball championship will ever remain even though they be seen through the veil of defeat.

Before the fighting Tarzans finally bowed to the inevitable, they made a record of forty consecutive victories, a record that tells how Stockton High School has reigned supreme in California basket ball since the days of '21. The team of '24 may not have had the success of its brilliant predecessors; but its fighting ability will compare with any of them, for it won a sub-league title on nothing but a heart.

CLASSIFIED BASKET BALL

Coach Libhart's weight teams, the cradle of the varsity, were missing this year; and taking their place were the Class B and C squads that trained regularly with the varsity.

The Class B team went as far up the ladder as possible when it won the final game of the season from Marysville, thereby annexing the Northern California championship. No Southern California winner was determined; so a play-off was impossible. The Class B men were Mallory, Bowan, Dietrich, Bernasconi, Williams, Waltman, Scott, Captain Johnson, manager Brown, and Coach Lenz.

The Class C quintet had a victorious season until it met Marysville. Because of that defeat, it had to be content with the honor of being runner-up to the Northern championship. The Class C men were Miller, McCoy, Garrigan, Breuner, and Bernasconi.

The Class B games were as follows:

Stockton, 22; Benicia, 21.

January 4, 1924.

Stockton's Seconds triumphed over the Benicia varsity by the close score of 22 to 21. The game was close and hard-fought throughout. The star for Stockton was "Red" Berg who scored eleven points. Rowe shone for Benicia with eight points.

Stockton, 25; Preston, 34.

January 11, 1924.

The Stockton Class B's fell before the Preston Industrial School in the second game of the season by the score of 34 to 25. The game was hard-fought but very clean. George starred for the Tarzans with thirteen points, while Jones sparkled in the opposing lineup with fourteen points.

Stockton, 19; Sacramento, 16.

January 11, 1924.

The Stockton and Sacramento Seconds battled through a regulation period to a 16 to 16 tie, in a close and bitterly contested game; but in the extra period, the Blues could not be denied by their Purple adversaries and ended with Stockton on the long end of a 19 to 16 count.

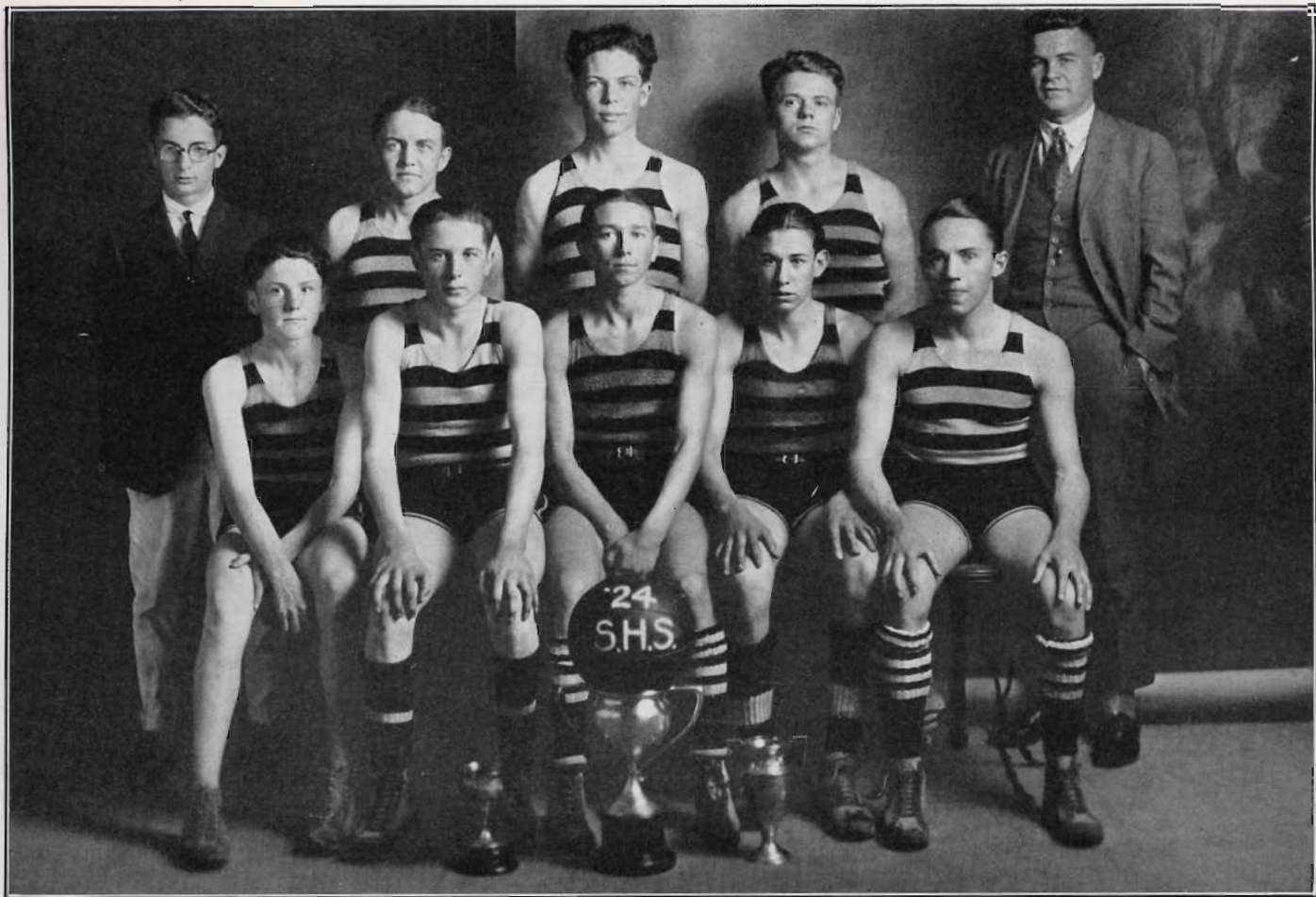
Stockton, 25; Ione, 14.

By passing and shooting brilliantly, Stockton decisively outclassed Ione on their own court by the margin of 25 to 14. The game was very fast, and Ione displayed excellent work in passing, but their shooting could not compare with that of the Blues. Kenyon was the Stockton high-point man with seven digits to his credit, while Woolsey of Ione surpassed the Caveman star by two points.

Stockton, 12; Lodi, 7.

February 2, 1924.

The Class B's played against Lodi and won 12 to 7. That sentence speaks volumes, for a Stockton-Lodi game in any sport is a battle, and in basket ball it is worse than that.



CLASS B BASKET BALL TEAM

The game was cyclonic from the opening whistle, and the defenses of the two quintets was almost flawless. But Hoessel, Funk, and Kenyon of Stockton were shooting in great form despite the Tokays' stonewall opposition; and the Blue and White finally triumphed.

Stockton, 13; Lodi, 16.

February 8, 1924.

Precedent means nothing in a Tokay-Tarzan tussle, and with spirit uninjured the Grape-eaters avenged their previous defeat by trimming the "Little Tarzans" by a 16 to 13 count. Stockton was off in shooting and Lodi had a real "night," but the low score indicates the defenses of the two squads. Hoessel of Stockton was high-point man with seven tallies, and Kenyon played his usual brilliant floor game.

Stockton, 18; Woodland, 11.

February 22, 1924.

The "Little Tarzans" were crowned Class B champions of Central California when they swept the Woodland Wolves off their own floor in the second half of the game and won by the score of 18 to 11. The first half was very bitterly contested. The Wolves led 2 to 0 at the end of the first quarter, and the score was 5 to 5 at half time; but the Blues were shooting better in the second half and thereby cinched the game. Captain Johnson made four field goals for Stockton.

Stockton, 26; St. Aloysius, 8.

In a game replete with fouls, the St. Aloysius quintet was bowled over by the Blue and White "understudies" by the one-sided count of 26 to 8. The Saints were helpless from start to finish; they did not hold the ball past the middle of the floor and relied entirely upon long shots. Bowan, Blue running guard, made most of Stockton's points by shooting in an unbelievable fashion.

Stockton, 22; Auburn, 19.

March 14, 1924.

Auburn's second team fell before the aspiring Blues in the northern city, in a game in which both squads demonstrated their championship caliber, by the close score of 22 to 19. The prize for winning, was the privilege of meeting Marysville for the northern state title, and both fives played accordingly. Captain Emmett Johnson scintillated for Stockton by scoring twelve points, and Williams came next with six markers.

Stockton, 21; Marysville, 18.

March 21, 1924.

Another title was brought to Stockton High School when the Blue and White Class B squad crowned a season of almost uninterrupted triumphs by winning the Northern California basket ball championship from Marysville High School by a 21 to 18 score. The entire Stockton team played good basket ball, and by combining talent with "heart" their season ended successfully.

CLASS C GAMES

Stockton, 35; St. Agnes College, 13.

March 14, 1924.

Stockton High School's Class C squad won its first game from St. Agnes College by the overwhelming score of 35 to 13. The first quarter was close, ending in a 6 to 6 tie, but the Tarzans ran wild in the last three stanzas.

Stockton, 16; Auburn, 5.

March 19, 1924.

The Midget Tarzans played almost a carbon copy of their first game, and trounced Auburn in their own home town by a 16 to 5 score. The first quarter ended with both teams in a scoreless tie, but Stockton hit its stride after that and soon had the game on ice.

Stockton, 10; Marysville, 20.

March 21, 1924.

The Blue Midget's championship hopes were shattered on the basket ball floor of Marysville High School when the northern lads forced them to bow to a 20 to 10 defeat. The game was for the championship of northern California, and considering the short existence of the Class C's, their success was surely remarkable.



ADVISER SECTION BASKET BALL

The adviser sections of Stockton High School after a spirited season ended their long series of games with a "little world series" between the Harriman quintet, American League champions, and the Williamson five, who wore the National League crown.

The Williamson clan with greater weight and more talent tore through the American Leaguers in the final game and won the Stockton High School Adviser championship for the year 1924 by the score of 26 to 14.