



## PIED PIPER OF PERALTA ... CONTINUED

becoming discouraged, Jed pits Novice against Novice, Advanced against Advanced, and Expert against Expert in the club contests.

Making his young flyers compete is only part of the story. Certainly the will to win is important, but so is proper direction, and this lanky, intense young man points the way for his eager eagles.

Jed started building models when he was eight. Now, 20 years later, he can look back on a lot of fun-filled years—years during which he built and flew everything from F/F scale to R/C. He placed first in Senior C/L at the 1963 Nats.

It wasn't always like that. He recalls his first contest, a Flightmasters' Scale meet, in which he entered a Berkeley Stinson L5.

"It flew once and crashed once, and I was crushed because while the L5 was wiped out, it didn't crash badly enough to get me the "Worst-Crack-up Award."

Back in high school, long before he became an industrial arts major, Jed was show-

ing other boys how to do things. He seemed to have a knack for instruction, which prompted his teachers to suggest that he consider becoming a teacher himself.

"At first it sounded silly, but when I finally decided to go to college, it was the only thing that made any sense to me."

Outside of the classroom, Jed spends a lot of his free time with the boys. When I asked about this, he replied that he had had an awful lot of help during his early modeling years, and all he was doing was returning some of that help. "I spend the time with the boys because I want to."

Peralta principal, Gene Beyer, asks, "Where do we find people with the dedication of a Jed Kusik?" Not a rhetorical question but rather an exclamation, Beyer supports Jed's dedication in every way possible. Last semester the club had a contest to draw a design for a club emblem. Jed took the winning entry to the school art department, where one of the teachers is making a large illustration of the emblem. It will be

used to prepare a silk-screen. The boys can't wait to screen the emblem onto their T-shirts and jackets.

The club makes an award to the member accumulating the most points during the semester. That boy is declared the school "Ace," and he receives his award, usually a large trophy, at a regular awards assembly—together with other students who are recognized for their scholarship, citizenship, and athletic achievement.

When last year Jed took some of the boys to a series of regular contests sponsored by a club in Escondido, the school provided transportation and gas. Going to outside contests gives an added push to Jed's program.

"It helps to keep the boys building because they must have a competitive airplane in order to come along. They keep asking me when we're going back down."

To anyone who has tried to make a Junior program go, Jed's success is at least intriguing. I'd had four years in a weekly Boy's  
(Continued on page 16)



On the firing line—at left, Combat competitor readies his little machine and on right, pitmen assist their pilot in readying his Stunter for action.