

Webfoot Tennis Squad Fare Well During Season

Neer and Okerberg Gain Distinguished Record in Singles Matches

Team Will Have Strength Again Next Spring

By Joe Pigney

When "Red" Grange decided to drop college football and go into the game on a monetary basis, he created a great deal of consternation among the lovers of amateur sports. Wise gray heads nodded gravely, and made startling predictions of the complete absorption of college football by professional circles.

The sages created a picture of the new era of Abercrombie athletics in the universities; a picture that was the cause of much mirth among the followers of the fall classics. The sketch drawn of the future of college sport was one of a tennis meet between rival schools. Banked on all sides of the court were countless rows of seats filled with enthusiastic rooters and co-eds urging the heroic racket-wielders to do their darnedest.



Tennis Gains Favor

The scene resembled that of a football contest. The significant difference, however, was that the warriors of the gridiron had been supplanted by net-men. The spirit of football was still there; the yell-leaders, the girls, the color, the old grads—all were there to encourage the white-clad team to uphold the honor of the school.

The picture is impossible, and there is no particular danger of tennis superseding football. The court game, nevertheless, is coming to be recognized as a major sport in college activities. The recent Pacific coast tournament held on the University of Oregon courts, May 21-22, gave evidence of the increasing interest. The temporary stands were filled to capacity during the feature matches, and, despite the unfavorable weather, both players and spectators experienced a successful conflict.

The work of the Webfoot tennis men in the last few seasons has added to the general tendency to favor it as a major sport. Edward Abercrombie, coach, has produced some really great players. Last year, Roy Okerberg and Harry Coffin were the men unbeaten in coast tournaments. These two men gave good accounts of themselves on their trip to the national meets last summer. This year, Okerberg and Henry Neer, a sophomore, have duplicated the success of last year, and the tentative trip east bids high to be another triumph for Oregon.

Neer and Okey Star

As a team, this year's squad may have been a trifle top-heavy. The work of Neer and Okerberg at Nos. 1 and 2 left quite a gap between the less brilliant performances of the other positions. The Webfoots, however, were not stinted in victories. On the pre-season trip to Portland they defeated the Multnomah club and Reed college without much difficulty. The Aggies were overwhelmed twice. Stanford and Washington were the only teams that put the crimp in the Webfoot record.

Tennis is a game that depends on the individual. Although team work is a necessary factor in the doubles combinations, the real strength is determined by the work of the individuals. Two strong players paired together have a great advantage over two fairly good players who have better teamwork.

Neer played his first year on the varsity this spring, and if his playing continues to improve as rapidly in the future as in the past, he will be the shining light of the conference. Neer did not lose a singles match the whole season; his only defeat came in the doubles with Okerberg, at the hands of McElvenny and Herrington, the doubles champions from Stanford.

Hard Tilts Won

Neer proved his ability as a tennis player when he downed McElvenny in the singles of the coast tourney. McElvenny took the first set handily, not losing a game. In the second set Neer fathomed the mystery and came out on top, 6-4. The third and deciding set was a see-saw affair that had both the players and the gallery groggy before it ended. Each player was winning his own serve consistently, until finally Neer broke through and took the set after 20 torrid games had been played, 11-9.

Last year Okerberg was the ranking player on the squad, but this year he was crowded into second position by the aggressive Neer. Okey's game was by no means inferior to that of last year; on the contrary, it was decidedly improved. His speed and network made him one of the most popular players in the Northwest from the standpoint of the spectator. Okey's reach and his ability to evert the court were

great assets that he capitalized to full extent. A short lob was a fatal stroke if Okey got hold of it.

Okerberg lost his only match to Ogden, the Stanford ace. Okey has been a varsity letterman for three years, and the hole he leaves through graduation will be a hard one to fill.

Team Play Uneven

Clare Hartman played his first year with varsity competition and won his letter. Hartman was defeated in his matches with Plummer of Washington and Herrington of Stanford by close margins and after heated battles. He beat his Aggie opponent in both meets. Dick Edge at No. 4 also lost in the play with the Huskies and Cardinals, but his work against the Aggies and in pre-season games warrant him as a player with great possibilities.

Mel Cohn and Tom Cross alternated at the fifth position. Cross lost the only Webfoot match to the Aggies in Corvallis, but avenged himself at the expense of McGrew in straight sets when the Orangemen invaded Eugene. Cohn had an "off and on" year, and although he earned his letter, the unreliability that he developed kept him on the sidelines during some of the play. On the trip to Portland, he was defeated by O'Hara of the Multnomah club. The next week at Corvallis, however, he overcame his Irish complex and defeated McGrew, a Scotchman.

Oregon's outlook for next year is fairly bright. Only one man, Okerberg, will be lost by graduation. The strength of this year's frosh team will not be a great asset unless there is considerable improvement, but the varsity men who will be back next spring will have added a whole year to their experience.

Basketball

(Continued from page one)

final play of "Swede" Westergren, Roy Okerberg and Jerry Gunther, star Oregon hoopers. Westergren won all-coast guard distinction, while Okerberg was without a rival at center. Gunther played well all season.

Coach Billy Reinhart had an opportunity to break in several new men who have the responsibility as veterans next winter. Scott Milligan, guard; Gordon Ridings, forward; Dave Epps, Joe Bally, Don McCormick and Keith Emmons, all had experience this year.

The return of Clair Scallon to school next fall is expected, and he will be one of the mainstays of the 1928 team. Scallon won all-American honors while a high school player, and was a member of last year's freshman squad. He was not in school during the past hoop season.

Ronald Coleman, guard, and Ken Robie, forward, are the most likely looking material coming from the freshman squad. Out of these men, Reinhart must build a quintet to carry on Oregon's hoop prestige.

Frosh Ball Team Win Nine Games During Spring

Yearlings Lose to Salem; Four Victories Gained Over Rooks

By Bill Haggerty

With a record of having lost only one game out of nine played, the frosh baseball team recently ended a successful season. Salem high school was the only team during the season that was able to chalk up a defeat against the frosh, accomplished by a 7 to 5 score.



The victories included four straight wins over the O. A. C. rooks, one from Albany college, one from Washington high school of Portland, and two from the Monmouth normal school. The scores of the games with the rooks were 11 to 7, 7 to 3, 9 to 4, and 7 to 5. Albany college was taken into camp 20 to 1; Washington high school, 11 to 9; and Monmouth normal school, 25 to 1 and 4 to 3.

Averages show that the yearlings batted at a .419 clip in the nine games played. McDonald led the list of regulars with 16 hits out of 23 times to bat for an average of .695. Nine of the first eleven players on the squad had a percentage of better than .350.

Fuller and McDonald, the two pitching aces, were another big factor in the strong showing of the frosh. In the first game of the season against Albany college not a hit was registered against these two hurlers. Fuller held the Rooks to one lone hit in the last game, although five runs were scored through errors. The batting averages of the first eleven men on the squad were:

Player	At Bat	Hits	Ave.
McDonald	23	16	.695
Walton	18	9	.500
Nelson	38	18	.473
Mason	37	17	.459
Giles	30	13	.433
Fuller	14	6	.429
Laughlin	22	9	.409
Wirth	36	14	.383
Williams	28	10	.357
Robie	37	12	.324
Coleman	22	4	.181

Football

(Continued from page one)

and the Navy. To be effective, both as to power, deception, and as a threat, the key-man of the formation must be a triple-threat, and will handle the ball via a direct pass from center on every play.

Mimnaugh, Jones, and Vitus are the only men lost by graduation. Seven lettermen will form the nucleus for next fall. They will be supplemented by seven ex-freshmen.

Ira Woodie, a quarterback with a cool head and a rifle-true passing arm, will have first call. Mason and Frank Mimnaugh, ex-frosh, with Dudley Clark and Merrill Hagan, varsity subs last year, will be Woodie's understudies. Dudley Clark, all-star Portland quarter a few years ago, was handicapped last fall by illness, but is an effective signal caller with a level head. He has speed both as an interference runner and a ball carrier. Hagan won his spurs in the W. S. C. game, and is dependable. Both freshmen ran their team in good fashion, and are able to forward pass.

Plenty of Half-Backs

There will be such an array of halfbacks that it will be difficult for Vidal to choose the best. Burnell and Ord, of last season's varsity, supplemented by Bobby Robinson, Ron Coleman, and Cecil Gabriel from the green-cap squad will put up a battle for the two halfback positions. Ord gained the cognomen of "Whippet" by his Red Grange exhibitions against Willamette and California last year. He is a shifty open field runner and a good pass receiver, but his 135-pounds are too light to be effective as a defensive back. Burnell also has speed and is valuable on the receiving end of a forward toss.

Robinson and Coleman are men of triple-threat ability, being especially good on end runs or off-tackle bucks. Both are accurate passers and can punt well over 40 yards.

Wetzel, who will be playing his final year, will be at fullback this year. He was tried in this position in the California and W. S. C. games last year, and proved satisfactory. Wetzel, who weighs 185, is a peerless defensive player, a punter and passer. Cotter Gould, sub fullback last fall, will be in reserve. Chuck Williams and Hatton, ex-frosh fullbacks, will also be on call for the line-plunging berth. Both Williams and Hatton are versatile, being able to kick and pass as well as buck the line. Williams, though short, is heavy and is a savage defensive player.

With the array of material Capt. McEwan and Gene Vidal will build Oregon's grid hopes next fall when the call to report goes to all aspirants on September 15.

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