

### Webfoot Sportoscope

By RICHARD H. SYRING Sports Editor

Not too much has been said about the University of Oregon's basketball prospects. Coach Billy Reinhart has been letting other people blow the horn which hasn't rendered an any too optimistic tone thus far. According to the pre-season predictors the Webfoot basketballers will finish the hoop season at the bottom or near the last rung of the conference ladder.

Right now it would be folly for anyone to say that Oregon will have just as good a basketball team as last year. No one knows. The Lemon-yellow casaba artists are in the formative stage right now and will be so until the middle of the schedule. It has been pointed out that Oregon is right where it was three years ago when the graduation of such basketballers as Latham, Shafer, Chapman and others left Reinhart holding the sack, so to speak, in regard to experienced players. It was the season of 1925 that saw Jerry Gunther, Roy Okerberg and Swede Westergren begin their varsity careers. Okerberg was a green, inexperienced player who had had difficulty in making the third freshman team. Gunther's basketball ability had never exerted itself before. Westergren was the only one of the trio who came with the reputation of an all-state player.

The season of 1925 not only saw a fairly good team, but Reinhart's charges tied the Oregon Aggies for Northwest honor only to lose by one point in the three-game play-off. The hoop years of 1926 and 1927 saw the Webfoots win the Northwest gonfalon only to lose to California in the coast championship series.

The one joker in the pessimistic predictors' forecast is that Coach Reinhart isn't dealing with new, green material. True, he has but two lettermen to work with but members of the super-varsity are all experienced players. All haven't had enough varsity experience, but a good many hours have been used up in playing basketball. Hoop artists like Clare Seallon, Ray Edwards, Mervyn Chastain, Don McCormick, Dave Epps, Bernard Hum-

melt, Joe Bally, Keith Emmons and Howard Eberhart can't be classed as new, green material. A greater portion of the above were selected on mythical all-state quintets.

This year's quintet will see a team demonstrating better team work than last year. The case of Gunther, Westergren, and Okerberg was one that any coach would overlook. Such stars as these must be given a starting play but then allowed to resort to the style which made them stars. Thus in summing up the prospects it can be seen

that Oregon will have a much better basketball team than most people expect. It will probably not exceed the 1927 quintet but will be one that by the middle of the season will be mighty hard to beat.

George Bertz, sporting editor of the Oregon Journal, tries to explain the reason for the small crowds at collegiate football games in Portland. He acknowledges the fact that Portland isn't a college town, but then goes on to blame the football teams of the state: "In the second place, neither the University

of Oregon nor the Oregon State College have developed squads in the last few years that measure up to the standards of the teams turned out by the University of Washington, Stanford University, University of Southern California and California," he says. Mr. Bertz is unfair in his criticism of Oregon teams. How can he expect schools much smaller than those he mentions to compete with larger schools? Perhaps the state of Oregon can

be blamed for the poor football teams. Just take a glance at the high schools of the state that have a fully equipped physical education department. True, the state school laws require certain portion of the students' time devoted to physical exercise but how many high schools live up to it? Compare the athletic equipment, accommodations, salaries of the coach and other items resorted to to train athletes to that of California. The state of Oregon is found sadly

lacking. Not enough interest has been shown in high school football to arrange for a satisfactory way of determining the state championship team. Each year claims come in from all over. Most of the freshman football players of the University have had football training, but

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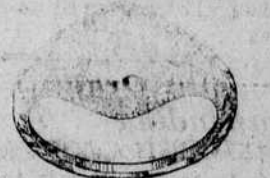
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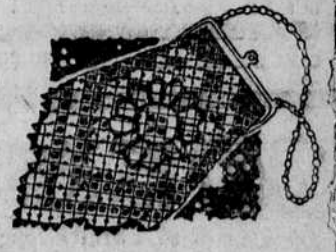
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