

Duck Tracks

By BILL DYER

Undoubtedly the greatest series so far of the 1943 baseball season was the recent Oregon-Washington contests which saw the Webfoots bump the Huskies for two wins, but only after a terrific struggle.

In the first game the baseball magic of Coach Howard Hobson became apparent as the local crew squeezed out a 5 to 4 win although out-hit 11 to 6. Carefully planned baseball strategy proved to be the winning margin in a tight ball game.

In the second inning of that game, Bob Farrow reached first on an error. Murphy up, and he slammed a sharp single to right advancing Farrow to second. Then Koch lofted a high fly to left field and our galloping shortstop reached third after the catch. With a man on third and first and two outs, "Hobby" flashed Murphy the sign to steal and as Crockett, the Husky hurler, started his windup, Art streaked for second. In doing this he stepped off the mound which constitutes a balk and allowed Farrow to score and Murphy to take the base.

Farrow Plays Smart

Again in the fourth, smart baseball accounted for another score. Bubalo smacked a long double to open the inning and took third on an outfield fly. This brought Farrow up, and Bob showed why he is one of the finest college shortstops, when he laid down a beautiful squeeze bunt to bring John in from third on the out. That has been a consistent scoring play so far this season, and it was baseball such as this that gave Nick Begleries his third straight league win and put Oregon in the loop lead.

The second game was a contest long to be remembered. Captain Bubalo and Doug Ford tangled up in the most brilliant pitchers' battle of the year. Showing a smokey fast one, good control, and a sharp curve, Ford let down the Oregon crew for six innings without a score. He had the Ducks eating out of his hand and it looked as if the game might last all night for Bubalo was in rare form and was matching Ford pitch for pitch.

Koch's Rap Timely

After the seventh inning stretch, Oregon came up and the first two men went out. Up came Bob Caviness who was playing right field while the "Boob" was pitching. Lady Luck was with him and he caught one of Ford's slants for a slashing single. Still things did not look promising for Barney Koch was up and he had been swinging futilely at Ford's stuff all afternoon. But Barney was not destined to go down this time for he laid on to a fast ball and kissed the horsehide for a long drive into center field. If the game had been played on Howe field it undoubtedly would have been a four bagger, but ground rules on the lower field allowed him but a double.

So the situation stood with a man on second and third, two outs and Hamel up. Red-headed Bill, too, caught one of Ford's pitches but he laid it right to Washington's second sacker, Wenke. It was a hot grounder, but Wenke got in front of it and then let it slip through him while both Caviness and Koch streaked for home and tallied the only two Oregon runs of the day.

Huskies Come Back

But the Huskies were not out yet and they came back in the ninth frame to avert a shutout. Gissberg, who was a fly in the ointment all afternoon for Bubalo collected his second double and third hit of the day, moved to third on a passed ball and scampered home on an infield out. However, Big John settled down after that and grabbed a bounder to the box to end the game.

A curious thing about the Washington nine is they all seemed look so young for a college team. Crockett, their opening day hurler, looked more like a high school freshman than a college chucker. In fact, the Husky squad was a trifle green but they made up for the inexperience with worlds of fight. They were always hustling, chattering, and plenty dangerous. Bill Taylor, their shortstop, came up with some beautiful plays and hit well to look like the top shortstop of the loop. Gissberg on first and Tran, third baseman, were always dangerous at the plate, both collecting three hits on different days. All of the Huskies were death on fast ball pitching and it was brainy use of a slow ball which gave Begleries the margin in the opener while Bubalo's slow but fast breaking knuckler had them helpless in the second. Look for these same Huskies to be plenty tough when Oregon goes to Seattle next week. They will not only be out for revenge but will be playing on the home field which will give them the advantage.

Interesting note that freshman hurler, Hal Saltzman, has won two league games by the same score 6 to 2. Hal will be counted on to bear a big part of the pitching burden on the coming trip and will be out to continue his perfect score.

Webfoots Slate Service Squad

Waving two earlier victories over the 383rd Infantry Camp Adair nine in their faces today as a goading point, Oregon's busy little Ducks once again go into a diamond fray this afternoon at 3 p.m. against the Corvallis soldier unit.

The Webfoot was on his best behavior in the first two showings against the Infantry squad, bopping the khaki-wearers, 14 to 8, and 6 to 2. The initial tussle was hardly interesting, as Oregon battered all sorts and styles of soldier pitching from pillar to home plate with reckless abandon.

Ex-Pro to Pitch

Much tighter, the return tiff saw the Camp Adair kids throw in a former coast league hurler, Frank Nelson, to hold the local bats down to a more decent tempo.

Today's tussle marks the next-to-the-last home showing before the Hobson-coached collegians toss belongings in their Gladstones for the grueling week-long Inland Empire travelogue. Saturday Portland Pilots accept an invite for a little friendly hitting mayhem on the local ball plot.

What is most confusing to the Oregon chieftain is just who he can turn to to accomplish the hurling chore. Most of his small throwing squad has already seen service this week, against Washington's powerhouse Huskies and the Camp Adair Timber Wolves—all three heated tussles.

He can't afford to use his top throwers, Nick Begleries, John Bubalo, and Hal Saltzman, endlessly as they'll have plenty to keep them busy next week when the conference fun starts.

But he can always say "come hither" to Whitey Lokan, blond soph right hander; Art Murphy, an interchanging outfielder who can labor on occasion as a ball-and-strike tosser; Suds Sutherland, who is coming around fast; Bob Caviness, regularly an outfielder, and Fred Kuhl, up from the frosh ranks.

The first two traveled in yesterday's clash so probably will draw a richly-deserved respite today. The remainder can all be expected to be available if needed.

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Borden's

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