

Football Welcomed Back; Prewar Coaches Return

EMERALD Sports

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Oliver Unable to Predict Caliber of Gridiron Squad

First in Oregon's sport program for the 1945-46 season will be football and Coach "Tex" Oliver is unable to predict as yet the aggregation of webfoots who will turn out this fall.

Only a handful of players with previous experience are certain to be on hand at the first practice. Roy Blatchley, former blocking back from Eugene, and Bobby Reynolds, ex-halfback from Portland are the two lettermen who are considering a return to the campus this fall.

Returning war veterans and transfers from junior colleges are also expected to give the "Tex" some top-flight material he is not counting on. Oliver has intimated that a revision might have to be made in the Ducks' style of play stressing any unusually strong phase of the game or the use of any person with unusual talent, to be able to compete with other Pacific coast conference schools.

Tex points out that California, which held spring and summer practices, will have big advantages over Oregon and other schools returning to the gridiron after several years absence.

"Practice, as in all other sports," Oliver says, "will naturally make the southern team stronger."

The Ducks are scheduled to play U. C. L. A. in Los Angeles and the University of California in Berkeley during the 1945-46 season. Home engagements will be played against Oregon State, Washington and Washington State, and a single game will be played against the University of Idaho to fill out a nine-game schedule.

Although Tex has served the navy air fleets in both Pacific and Atlantic war theaters as a commander of physical fitness, he has kept his hand in the grid sport. After enlisting in the navy in 1942, Tex was head coach of the St.

Husky Grid Season To Begin Sept. 1

Fall football practice at the University of Washington will begin Sept. 1, a week earlier than at other northern division schools according to reports from Washington's coach Ralph "Pest" Welch.

The coach explained he had decided upon the earlier start because it coincided with the starting date for California schools and that the Huskies will meet Californian competition earlier than the other northern division teams—they play the University of California Oct. 6.

According to reports Welch said the off-season practice period permitted by the conference would start Aug. 13 for the men now in school. These are mostly navy trainees and will number about 50 players, it was estimated.



READY TO GO—G. A. (TEX) OLIVER, head football coach who has been serving as a lieutenant commander in the navy, is back in Eugene making plans for his 1945 football season.

Travelling Ducks Tell of UO Life

Giving advance first-hand knowledge about campus life to prospective students, Betty Lu Siegman, chairman of the Oregon Federation, and Doris Hack, alumni secretary, have been touring the state this summer. In addition to showing movies of the campus scenes and activities, they answered questions and told about rushing and freshman week.

They have been assisted by federation chairmen in various cities and towns of the state.

Oregon Federation activities will culminate with the picnic Monday, August 20, at Jantzen Beach park.

Oregon Football Schedule 1945

Sept. 29	Washington at Seattle
Oct. 6	Idaho at Eugene
Oct. 13	Oregon State at Corvallis
Oct. 20	Washington State at Eugene
Oct. 27	U. C. L. A. at Los Angeles
Nov. 3	Washington at Eugene
Nov. 10	Washington State at Pullman
Nov. 17	California at Berkeley
Dec. 1	Oregon State at Eugene

Duck Tracks

By JACK CRAIG

With the ending of war in the Pacific and the return of Oregon's coaches, Hobson and Oliver, from their war time duties, we can be reassured that the Oregon athletic program is taking a turn towards the packed grandstands and bleachers of the pre-war days. To many, an active Oregon athletic program means only one thing—Football, and being about that time of the year, it is only fair that we do a little speculating about what kind of a Duck eleven we will have this year.

Although Oregon's top grid man, Tex Oliver, feels that California schools, where they have had spring and summer practices, might have an edge over Oregon and other teams who are returning to football after a long absence, others with their minds on the past glory of Oregon's grid teams, give the Ducks an equal chance with other teams in the league sight unseen.

For a quick preview into what caliber of team Oregon might field we have to place most of our hopes on 4-F's, returning war veterans, junior college transfers and high school graduates. Two former lettermen, Roy Blatchley, former blocking back of Eugene, and Bobby Reynolds, ex-halfback from Portland, are said to be considering a return to the campus for another season.

According to latest reports, the first football turnouts will begin between September 1 and 5, which will give the Ducks only about a month to get whipped into shape to face the Washington Huskies at Seattle on the 29th of September. Oregon's first game with the Huskies should prove to be a good indicator of what kind of a season the Webfeet will have this year, for Washington will field a team of players who have had the benefit of a through-the-war schedule, besides having summer and spring practices.

At Washington's first summer turnout a week ago the Husky coach reported seventy candidates reported for call. In the preliminary registration only three lettermen were included—Tackles Harry Rice and Bill McGovern and Fred Osterhout, an end.

Full Oregon Sports Program Reaffirmed

The athletic board's ultimatum of a wholesale return to intercollegiate athletics during the 1945-46 school year was reaffirmed this summer with the return of webfoot coaches Howard Hobson and Tex Oliver. The varsity coaches along with record breaking coach Bill Hayward will direct three varsity sports during the coming year.

Gerald A. "Tex" Oliver, a lieutenant commander in the U. S. naval reserve for the past three years will pilot the web-foot football team next fall—the first Oregon gridiron squad since John A. Warren coached the Oregons in 1942.

Howard A. "Hobby" Hobson, who served the U. S. army as a civilian sports expert during his year's sabbatical leave, is back to coach varsity basketball and baseball. Oregon basketball has been carried on through the war period, but baseball was dropped after the 1942 season.

During the war three members of the athletic department have held the program together—Coach John Warren, who also coached varsity basketball last year, will be Oliver's assistant; Colonel Bill Hayward, veteran track mentor, plans a cinder squad for next spring; and Anson B. Cornell, graduate manager and head of the department of athletics.

Another member of the department, Trainer Robert O. "Bob" Officer, is expected to be given a discharge from the navy late this summer and return to his regular duties.

Minor Sports

Swimming, golf, tennis, skiing, boxing and wrestling are also expected to make their appearance on the Oregon sports schedules

during the year—providing other northern division, Pacific coast conference schools are able to furnish Webfoots with competition.

Early in the summer, Orlando J. Hollis, faculty representative to the Pacific coast conference, and at that time acting president of the University, approved the action taken by the athletic board to resume full-scale program of an intercollegiate athletic program during the 1945-46 year. The action taken however, does not obligate Oregon to field teams in other sports—golf, tennis, skiing, swimming, boxing and wrestling. The ultimatum was issued with the proviso that the other northern division members of the conference resume athletics in addition to football and basketball, making it possible to secure sufficient competition to warrant Oregon squads.

Coaching personnel for minor sports is usually selected from idle members of the coaching staff or Dr. Ralph W. Leighton's school of Physical Education.

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