

Duck Tracks

By FRED BECKWITH
CO-SPORTS EDITOR



We're up from the southlands after a week's breather from stuff like book larnin' and such. Collegiate baseball activity is the big noise around the San Francisco Bay area. Ball clubs from Stanford, California, Santa Clara, San Francisco and St. Marys are already swinging into action. Out Berkeley way, where the enrollment is an estimated 16,000, they've already set up a junior varsity organization. Professional baseball opened in the city by the Golden Gate, and at last report the S. F. Seals were astride the top rung in the Pacific Coast baseball league.

TOO TALL, THAT'S ALL

The Golden Bears of California are moaning about their poor showing in the recent NCAA basketball tournament, staged in Kansas City and New York City. The Bears, who bowed to the champion crew from the Oklahoma Agricultural school, complained of the terrific height advantage sported by one Bob Kurland, Aggie center. Kurland, all seven feet of him, played under the handicap of a bad cold, and still potted some 29 points. The Bears could not cope with the skyscraper kid, and suggested that something be done about these beanpole wonders.

We see where George Mikan, De Paul's famous all-American has signed a professional basketball contract which works like this: \$6 for every field goal and \$3 for every free throw. Mikan bags 20 points on an average night, so you figure out the dollars-and cents angle from there.

The University of Southern California is bidding for another national track crown. Already performing for the Trojan thinclads are Hubie Kern, a 47 seconds flat quarter-miler, and Roland Sink, clocked in 4:19 for early spring mile workouts. To top this off, the Trojans are loaded with high and broad jumpers, discus and shot-put men, let alone pole vault and javelin artists.

Jack Weirhauser, who was one of the crack performers on the 1937 Stanford track-and-field team, has now taken over the coaching reigns for the Indians in track this year. He's working with a squad that includes 48 freshmen, and does not anticipate too much.

INELIGIBLE

Already showing his wares in the spring football workouts at the University of California is Louie Jurkovich, brother of the famous Jim. Louie is built on the same structural designs as Jim, and great things are expected of him at Cal. California is moaning the ineligibility status of one Grover Klemmer, one of the co-holders of the world's quarter-mile mark at 46.4. Klemmer, incidentally, played only one year of varsity football at California, but in that lone season he displayed plenty of grid-iron savvy. His record at Great Lakes Naval training station was outstanding. Holding down the tailback slot in mid-season, Klemmer led the Bluejacket mates to a resounding triumph over the supposedly powerful Notre Dame eleven. But Klemmer is ineligible for further pig-skip duty, and that fact is bemoaned by the various rival coaches up and down these Pacific slopes. California's offensive football tricks will probably be handled by Billy Reinhardt, returning veteran, who lettered in '42.

A challenge in print: The Emerald sports staff, having concluded a highly successful basketball season, now goes on record to challenge the Oregon State Barometer staff to a softball match. The local scribblers are still in the reorganization stages, but on the strength of their casaba season, they feel confident of administering another trimming to the lowly Corvallis scribes..

WOTTA LINEUP!

Too late to publicize was the story of the Emerald-Phi Delt basketball game. We might say, (in small letters) that the Phi Delt emerged victorious. But before you yell "I told ya so!" let's review the lineup of that fabulous quintet that opposed the Sport staffers last term: Marv Rasmussen, varsity forward; Walt Kirsch, JV guard; Ken Hays, varsity center; Eddie Salstrom, captain of the championship intramural team. Do you think that's enough talent? Okay, hold your breath on this one: The Phi Delt, not confident of a win with all that talent, actually roped in the famous Oregon all-American, Laddie Gale. No comment. Our crew lost by some 9 points, but if ever a moral victory was warranted, the sports staffers earned it. So Bull and I join ranks to thank the following gang for playing ball for us this past term: Carl Cluff, Bob Reed, Duke Dennison, Bill McLennan, Larry Lau, Chuck Taylor, Kenny Hume, Walt Yoder, Milt Sparks, Luke Basilari, Ed Allen, Marty Pond, Dave Van Zandt, George Huggins, Bob Caviness and Pete Miller.

A few professional baseball predictions before we bow out this morning: American League—New York Yankees; National League—St. Louis Cards; Pacific Coast League—Los Angeles Angels.

Baseballers Shape Up For Thursday Opener

Soggy Field Slows Nine Initial Sets

Howe field was still a little soggy from recent rains as Coach Howard "Hobby" Hobson led his 40-odd baseball potentials for the Duck's initial diamond warm-up of the 1946 season.

Faced with rounding a team into shape in a limited time, Hobson called the first practice session for Friday afternoon. Taking advantage of the spring sun, he held limbering up sessions Saturday and Monday afternoons.

Post-war First

The first edition of Webfoot baseball nines since the diamond sport was dropped in 1943 will face its first competition Thursday afternoon here against Pacific University. In the few days left before that double header with Pacific, the Ducks are slated for much batting and fielding practice, and inter-squad games.

In order to give the Oregon nine the maximum of experience before the Northern Division schedule begins, Coach Hobson has arranged fourteen pre-conference tilts. Following the twin-bill Thursday against Pacific, Oregon plays host to Willamette University here Friday afternoon in another double header. Saturday the Ducks trek to Salem for a return game with Willamette.

Double-Header

April 9 brings the Salem Senators of the Western International league to the University for two games. The following day Oregon faces the Pacific University nine again in a twin bill scheduled for Forest Grove. April 12 and 13 the Webfoots and the Portland Pilots play a home-and-home series with the opening pair of encounters scheduled for Howe field.

Monday afternoon Hobson split his squad in order to give more attention to individual training. Barney Koch, who will coach the Freshman squad has taken over the duties of assistant baseball coach and handled one half of the spit squad in the Monday sessions.

Ski Club to Race Staters at Hoodoo

Arch rivals tangle this weekend on the snowy slopes of South Santiam Pass as the University of Oregon Ski club meets the Suski club of Oregon State in a series of downhill and slalom tracings at Hoodoo Bowl. Members of the local club will meet tonight in Oregon hall at 7:30 to discuss plans for the trip.

The University Ski club will sponsor the meet. Plans are for the races to start at 11 a.m. Sunday, and will continue throughout the day.

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"IRON MIKE"



Mike Mikulak Resumes Job

Recently discharged from the army military service as a lieutenant colonel, "Iron Mike" Mikulak will resume his position on the Oregon coaching staff when the Gridders report for spring practice April 6.

Mikulak is expected on the campus within the next several days after vacationing at Carmel, California. Mike was backfield coach at the University prior to entering the service and only recently decided to return to coaching after considering plans to enter private business.

This announcement was made recently by Anse Cornell, University athletic manager, after a long-distance telephone conversation with Mikulak.

In addition to Mikulak, head coach G. A. "Tex" Oliver will be assisted by line coach Vaughn Corley and freshman coach John Warren during the spring drill sessions.

Track Outlook Dull; Field Men Lacking

With the annual Oregon-Oregon State relays less than two weeks away, the Webfoot harriers are turning to the last stage of conditioning before actual competition. Monday marked the start of this workout for the forty-odd trackmen that will don the lemon and green colors under the coaching of Colonel Bill Hayward. Now that spring registration is under way many more potential tracksters will be on hand to bolster an otherwise weak and inexperienced squad.

Returning from the '41 team are three lettermen capable of leading the Ducks to a higher place in the Northwest standings. These men are: Jake Leicht, a 9.6 100-yard sprinter; Bill Beifuss, a high leaping high jumper; and Chuck Elliott, a 46 plus shot putter.

The Beavers will feel the effect of these men in the different relay teams that Oregon will field against them on the Hayward Field oval April 13. Competing for the Orange squad are Bob Stevens, Bob Reiman, and Bill Blackledge, all lettermen in the field department.

Little can be told of outstanding thin-clads for the U of O because only one running of time trials has been made so far. Several fine runners have shown up in practice short distance races, but they still are working on form and style in their running. Two frosh that show particular promise are Walt McClure in the distance and Frank Holms in the sprints.

Until time trials are held again,

A Tout's Report

By LARRY LAU

Man O' War, the greatest horse ever to come out of Kentucky, known as "Big Red" to his thousands of devoted fans, celebrated his 29th birthday March 20. Not the sleek, trim, heel-flasher he was back in 1920, Man O' War weighs 1300 pounds now, which is, as the caretaker puts it, "slightly overweight."

Owner Riddle bought Man O' War for \$5000 when he was a yearling and has several times since been offered a million dollars for him. "Big Red" won 20 out of 21 races, was never beaten as a three year old, and never ran a race on a Kentucky track! He won \$250,000 back in the days when the purses were considerably smaller than they are today, and was retired to stud at four!

Silver Threads Among

"Big Red's" step is a little slower, and he is greying around the muzzle, but despite his years he is still active, and daily romps and cavorts about to great delight of the people who flock to the farm at Lexington, Ky., to see him. Nearly a million and a half visitors have signed the register at the barn.

Race tracks on the West coast are slated to be just as numerous as bad grades in Psych. in the near future. Besides the proposed track in Puente, Calif., an application has been filed with the state racing commission for another million dollar oval to be located at Oakland, Calif. Portland Meadows, in the meanwhile, seems to be a thing that people merely whisper and shrug about. Tsk, Tsk!

Big Red's Chillun

The old adage that "blood will tell," becomes more true day by day. South of the border, Plucky Flag, a granddaughter of Man O' War has deftly annexed three of the biggest purses offered at the Mexico City oval, the latest being the Derby Mexicano, which, incidentally, was worth \$20,000 in good old American shekles. We'd like to see this blue-blooded babe tackle some sterner competition before writing any further rave notices as it is difficult to forget how the previous Mexican flash, Gay Dalton, fizzled out when he tried Hollywood Park out for size.

Two Kentucky Derby eligibles in Earnest and Billy Bumps, moved themselves into contention with impressive victories at Tropical Park last Thursday.

Abe Hirschberg's \$55,000 purchase, Occupy, will have another chance soon to match his stride with Armed, who beat him a length and a half in their last meeting. It must be noted that Mr. Hirschberg is not reckoned for throwing 55 grand away on a plug.

It has been estimated that there is slightly over \$80 wagered for every attending turf fan at the track. In other words, for every two dollar bettor nervously clutching two crumpled bills, there is an "operator" who is waiting his turn at the \$100 window!

the entire team will work on keeping muscles in shape and final workouts preparing for the relays. All men intending to turn out for track should see Coach Hayward before this week is over and make arrangements for practice periods in preparation for future qualifying trials.