

DUCK TRACKS

By BERNIE HAMMERBECK

Sports Editor

It took but one weekend of Pacific Coast football to prove to experts and observers alike that accurate pre-season forecasts of 1946 football elevens were definitely not to be relied upon. The



PHIL SORBOE

drum-beating and ballyhoo-expounding representatives of several schools had their mighty bubbles burst the very first week. Tops on the list, of course, was the downfall of the Oregon State Beaver. The terrific beating suffered by the Orangemen made them look mighty bad, yet they should not be counted out as they may muster strength later in the season.

A disappointment to many was the showing of the USC Trojan. The mighty men of Troy were labeled as the

cream of the coast, yet had to content themselves with a last-minute touchdown and a six-point win over the darkhorse WSC Cougars. It was this Cougar eleven that made one of the best impressions of the weekend.

The Phil Sorboe coached lads suffered from a severe case of jitters in the first half as the Trojans roared into a seven-point lead. Finally they found themselves and retaliated in the second half to knot the count. And there the score stayed until a mere sixty seconds remained when El Trojan scored again to win the contest.

Cougars Live Up to Reputation

The Cougars had been counted on as a darkhorse eleven, and as such certainly lived up to expectations even if the Trojans did not. With a contest with Idaho scheduled for this week, the WSC men will follow against Washington, Oregon, and California in that order. If they can get through those they may yet be reckoned as a title contender.

Tex Oliver's Oregon Webfoots came through their contest in a somewhat dubious manner which has many local fans a bit discouraged with the Lemon and Green chances. Things are not as dark as the one-point win indicate, however. Most openers are scheduled with the idea of margin of safety should the boys not click or the opposition prove unusually rough.

That's exactly what happened Saturday with the Stagmen plenty rough in the line, and the Oregon blocking looking none too sharp. Few fans realize that the Oregon line was sadly undermined before it went into the contest. How many clubs can lose four top-flight guards within a period of ten days and still come up with a winner? That's exactly what happened in Vaughn Corley's line.

Loyd, Berwick, Hanna, Meland Out

First, Harold Loyd, a fine prospect and letterman in 1942, decided not to enter Oregon as he wished to pursue an engineering course. A few days later Jim Berwick, fighting for a starting berth, came up with a knee injury that knocked him out for two weeks.

The crowning blow came the day before the game, however, when Ted Meland, first-stringer at left guard, and Bill Hanna, coming up fast at the other guard slot, were both declared ineligible.

Thus the Webfoots lost one starting guard, another who was fighting on even terms for a starting berth, and two others who would have seen a considerable amount of action. As a result three guards—Murphy, Novacic, and Kauffman—carried most of the duties and by the time the second half rolled around they were mighty tired. Proof of this second half lapse can be seen in the fact that the Webfoots gained three-quarters of their total yardage for the game in the first half when the linemen were getting their blocks.

It is hoped that the big bruising Meland will be declared eligible prior to the Cal contest and if that happens the Webfoot stock will go up, as the former St. Mary's Pre-flight griddy is the heaviest and the roughest guard on the Oregon squad. Also expected back before long, though perhaps not by this weekend, is Jim Berwick at the other guard.

Ducks Expect Tough Battle Against Bears

University of Oregon's Webfoots travel south this weekend into the lair of a once-lambasted University of California Golden Bear, and according to reports from Webfoot football heads, it is a highly regarded Bear.

Though the California Bear was soundly thumped by Wisconsin Saturday, Oregon backfield coach, Ben Winkleman, was south over the weekend to do a scouting job on the game. His reports show that the Cal lads will still be able to hit a lick on October 5. According to the information furnished the Duck board of strategy by Winkleman, the California team is well stocked with reserves. Winkleman's one day survey found the Bears able to field three teams of almost equal equal strength.

Another factor being given consideration by the Webfoots is the fact that the team that pounded the Bears so unmercifully was a Wisconsin team that had one game this season already under its belt when it trod the turf against Cal. This, plus the fact that the victorious Wisconsin Badgers began their practice season on August 15—almost three weeks sooner than Coast school, leads the Webfoot coaching staff to believe that the Bears were overwhelmed by a team that is further advanced than any other team on the Pacific slope.

Last night the Webfoots went to work on a slightly damp Hayward Field. Coach John Warren's junior varsity provided scrimmage opposition while they ran through California plays. Besides getting plenty of opportunity to watch the Golden Bear style of offense in action the Ducks are also slated for plenty of work on their offensive blocking.

Blocking Weak

In the Saturday opener with Alonzo Stagg's COP Tigers the Webfoot offensive blocking was definitely low grade. Another weak feature in the Webfoot picture was the lack of clean sweeping down field blocking. Head Coach Tex Oliver and the entire Oregon coaching staff were aware of deficiencies in both of these departments and indicated that the Webfoots were slated for drill.

Still on the Oregon injured list was a generous sprinkling of backs and linemen. Leading the list is All-American Jake Leicht, the quicksilver left half who received a knee injury in the 7 to 6 squeak-through with College of Pacific. Leicht's condition is still improving and indications are that he will be ready for another start Saturday. Only other back injured seriously in the Saturday game was Fullback George Bell who injured a hip.

Other backs disabled in pre-game scrimmages and still on the shelf, are halfback Glen Bostwick, who favors a bad shoulder, and Bill Behrens, pass-pitching half back. Fullback Bob Sanders is still being held because of an injured leg.

Linemen who will probably not be ready for the California jaunt

Bruins Top Contenders For 1947 Rose Bowl Bid

By LARRY LAU

With the 1946 football season only a week old, sports prognosticators are holding their heads in their hands, coaches who lost are working furiously to iron out their weaknesses, coaches who won are grimly pushing their teams through stiff workouts for the coming Saturday campaign, and trainers are laboring hard trying to massage life back into muscles and ligaments that were mashed this past weekend.

The contests this coming Saturday take on increased importance when one wonders whether the teams that so obviously hit their stride in their winning tilt will be able to continue through the season red hot, or will they, like fighters, drop a contest or two because they can't stand their own pace.

Heads and shoulders above the rest of the Rose Bowl contenders are the Bruins of UCLA. Their shellacking of the highly touted Beavers leaves little doubt that here is one team on whom the advance notices were correct; loaded is the word. Saturday, they take on the Washington Huskies in Seattle, a contest which, according to form, should go only one way.

Ducks Face Cal

The Webfoots of Oregon, who made such a poor showing against the under-rated College of Pacific, travel to Berkeley to tangle with the Golden Bears of California. From the press box, the Webfoots appeared to have ignored timing completely. If Tex Oliver has solved this knotty problem by game time,

are Right Guard Jim Berwick and Left End Dan Garza. Berwick and Garza both received leg injuries early in the season.

the team may well live up to its pre-season rave notices.

Washington State, who came so close to dumping USC, has a breather with Idaho this coming Saturday, and the wounded Beavers have a similar contest with the Portland U. eleven. Stanford, who at least started out right, has a chance to further earn its spurs against Clipper Smith's "semi-professional" team from the University of San Francisco.

The Trojans from USC, who got off to a winning, however bumpy, start, tangle with the Buckeyes from Ohio State, a game which only the brave and the foolhardy are attempting to predict. Cravath's charges have a habit of increasing in power as the season moves along, and the common consensus of opinion is that the Trojans will be much harder on their Big Ten visitors than were the California Bears.

Sports staff for this issue:

Bill Stratton
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UO Student Cartoonist

Alex B. Pierce, a student in the architecture school, received honorable mention yesterday for one of two cartoons entered in the Lena, the Hyena, comic strip contest in Portland.

TODAY'S INTRAMURAL FOOTBALL SCHEDULE:

Delta Upsilon vs. SAE, 3:50
Omega hall vs. Vet Dorm B, 4:45

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