

DUCK TRACKS

By WALLY HUNTER
Assistant Sports Editor

The big question in the minds of the followers of Oregon football for the past few months has been whether the new Webfoot coach would be able to hold the several football players on the campus who can graduate this year but who still have a season of eligibility left. Prominent in this group are diminutive Jake Leicht, All-American choice in 1945, and All-Coast in 1946; Jim Newquist; Bob Koch, one of the nation's top punters last year; and Tony Novacic, a light, fiery guard.



JAKE LEICHT

Their importance to the Ducks 1947 prospects are hard to overlook. This quartet could make or break the '47 machine. Leicht, Newquist, and Koch are three-quarters of what sports writers last year termed the "million dollar backfield." Thus far gruff, pleasant Jimmy Aiken is batting a red-hot 1,000 in his attempt to keep them all here.

Leicht has definitely told Aiken that he will for the present turn his back on pro offers and kick it around for Oregon next year. Lightning' Jake made this decision in spite of the fact that he was drafted by both the Brooklyn Dodgers and the Washington Redskins. Score one for Aiken on that.

Though neither Koch nor Newquist has definitely committed himself the odds favor their return to the campus next year. Neither of the pair has definitely said "no" and that in itself is a moral victory for Aiken. Guard Novacic, the final member of the quartet, has yet to make a decision but the chances for his return are good. You can give Aiken and his assistants credit for this too.

Not one member of this group was definitely planning to remain on the campus after this year. They waited for a look at the new coaching administration and evidently they now like what they see in Aiken and his staff.

Edmundson Pays Tribute to Beavers

Before Washington Basketball Coach Hec Edmundson left the Oregon campus he flung a large verbal bouquet at Coach Amory (Slats) Gill and his Oregon State basketball team. As quoted by George Varnell in the Seattle P. I. before the first Duck-Husky battle here, "No team in the Northern division will stop Oregon State short of the championship. Coach Slats Gill has what in my opinion is one of the strongest teams that has ever played ball in the northern division. I not only expect the Beavers to take the crown, but I predict they'll be mighty tough for the southern division winner to take. For my part the only possible weakness Oregon State may have is a lack of weight.

"The Beavers have great speed, fine shooting ability, accurate passing, an assortment of set plays which are well conceived and an exceptional defense. What more could a coach ask for in a team? I can't see a chance for any team to beat them out. Washington State may be tough for them in the series in Pullman but not tough enough to halt any pennant march."

That compliment from Edmundson isn't to be taken lightly. Old, gum-chewing Hec has been around the northern division for a long time and he's seen a lot of good ball clubs in action . . . including Oregon's 1939 championship team. Not only has he seen plenty of good teams in action; he has sent several pretty fair outfits out on the floor himself.

"Daring Dick" Dunkel Keeps Kentucky Up

"It's keeping up with Dick Dunkel time again. For the week of February 7 Daring Dick labels Kentucky as the top basketball team in the nation. No. 2 is West Virginia, and holding down the third spot is Notre Dame.

At the first of the current season very few western teams were rated in the upper 10 in the nation by Dunkel, at present he rates Oregon State, seventh; California, eighth; Washington State, ninth; and Washington tenth. In the Far Western division the Webfoots are rated fifth behind the above-mentioned quartet.

Fijis, SX, Rowdies, Theta Chi, Mohawks, Macs Take IM Tilts

RESULTS YESTERDAY

A League

Fijis 28, Phi Sigs 20
SX 24, Stan Ray BB 8
Rowdies 31, Minturn 14
McChesney 20, Yeomen 13
Theta Chi 29, Kilroy 24
Mohawks 27, Phi Psi 19

Sigma Chi opened yesterday's intramural basketball competition by defeating Stan Ray BB 24-8. The Fijis dropped the Phi Sigs 28-20, the Rowdies downed Minturn hall 31-14, McChesney hall beat the Yeomen 20-13, Theta Chi turned back Kilroy hall 29-24, and the Mohawks won from the Phi

Psis 27-19 to round out the schedule.

Sigma Chi had little trouble in its game with Stan Ray BB. Showing fine form in both ball handling and shooting, the Sigma Chi quintet jumped into an early lead on two quick field goals and then proceeded to run circles around the slower opponents. The half time score was 12-4.

Howell Stars

With Dick Howell dropping in 22 points, the Rowdies turned back a weak Minturn hall squad 31-14. Using their height to advantage, the Rowdies controlled both backboards and forced their opponents to cast off shots from out past the free-throw circle. The half time score was 16-4, with the Rowdies in the lead.

Gene Hebrard paced the Theta Chis to a close 29-24 victory over the rough Kilroy hall squad. Trailing by two points at the half, the Theta Chi boys outplayed their opponents in a rough-and-tumble second half

to lead at the closing whistle by five points. Ron Pupke and Bob Reynolds kept the Kilroy team in the game by bagging six points apiece.

The Mohawks had to fight off a last half drive by the Phi Psis before they came through with their 27-19 victory. The winners had things their own way during the first half with a 12-2 halfway lead. Amburn and Burge contributed six points apiece for the Mohawks, while Lou Robinson paced the Phi Psis with 12 points.

Taylor Hits 17

Trailing 11-4 at the half, Chuck Taylor sparked the Fijis to a second half 28-20 victory over the Phi Sigs. The Phi Sigs outplayed the Fijis in the first half, but Taylor found the basket in the second half to rack up 17 points.

The fast McChesney hall squad displayed accurate shooting as it turned back the Yeomen 20-13. With Mortenson dropping in eight points, the winners led 11-8 at the half.

Cards - South. Cal Open SD 2nd Half

The southern division of the Pacific Coast conference opens its last half of the schedule tonight when the fourth-place Trojans attempt to climb out of the cellar by playing host to Stanford in a two-game series.

The league-leading California Bears step out of the conference to play two long-awaited games. Friday night they take on St. Mary's on their home court, and Saturday go after the Santa Clara Broncos, who upset the Bears by 10 points in December. UCLA remains idle this week.

Sneezes Raise Riot With 'Mama' Cast

Playgoers who attend tonight's opening or any successive performances of "I Remember Mama" are assured that they will "remember mama," but three members of the cast will look back on the performances with the thought, "I Remember Purrl."

"Purrl, the feline lead in the play, has endeared herself to Peggie Jene McClure, Marilyn Rowling, and Mary Hoch, members of the cast, for they are victims of fur allergies, and have been sneezing violently in Purrl's presence.

Purrl's apparent unconcern for the success of the play, plus her slightly antisocial tendencies, have made her oblivious to the plight of the girls, and, at last reports, they were still sneezing.

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