

DUCK TRACKS

By BERNIE HAMMERBECK
Sports Editor

The 1947 northern division hoop season is now in mothballs, the post-season adventures of the Oregon State Beavers excepted, and All-Division teams have been the order of the day for the past three or four weeks. This column, not wishing to appear the oddball, is about to do the same, but instead of naming one team will choose a ten-man squad.



ROGER WILEY

Oustanding during the past season has been the work of the fireball guards. It was a year of high scoring, racehorse basketball, and the back court drivers really stole the show. True, a pair of centers led the scoring totals and played some fine ball, but for overall performance the laurels must go to the lads at the guard posts.

From the performances at eight McArthur court games, two Corvallis tilts, and fairly reliable reports on other contests throughout the league, the top ten should run like this.

Forwards—Cliff Crandall, Oregon State; Ken Hays, Oregon; Sammy White and Boody Gilbertson, Washington;

Centers—Jack Nichols, Washington; Red Rocha, Oregon State;

Guards—Lew Beck, Oregon State; Stan Williamson, Oregon; Bob Jorgenson, Washington; George Hamilton, Washington State.

Silver and Taylor Also Rate

Even the naming of ten men leaves out several outstanding players, but such is the plight of any all-star team. The top four guards are subject to but little dispute with another pair also worthy of mention—Morrie Silver of Oregon State and Bill Taylor of Washington.

Beck is undoubtedly the class of the league. His presence on any other ND club could easily have changed the outcome of the 1947 race. Williamson and Jorgenson are a toss-up. The Salmon started in top form, then slumped, but looked good in the finale last Saturday. Jorgie was a good solid performer all season and edged Williamson for fourth place in division scoring totals. The Cougars' Hamilton was a fine floor man, but did not do too well firing at the bucket.

The center situation is well handled by Rocha and Nichols. The Pineapple Picker from up-the-valley proved himself a fine offensive ball player and even galloped downcourt for his share of lay-ins on fast breaks. Nichols was in a class by himself as a smooth ball handler and post man.

Oregon's Roger Wiley took the label of No. 1 rebound man and likewise excelled at tips off the offensive board. Much to Coach Hobby Hobson's consternation, however, the Hot Dog's tips seldom went through the hoop. Idaho's Jack Phoenix came up with the one really sterling defensive job of the year when he held the Beavers' Big Red Rocha to a mere three points, all on free throws.

White Labeled Freshman of Year

Forwards of outstanding calibre were a bit more scarce. Crandall, without a doubt, was tops. His entire game from the fading, reversing dribble to the hay-pitching howitzer from center court caused the opponents nothing but trouble. Hays must be recognized for his heart, determination, and performance to 100 per cent of his ability.

White gets the nod as the freshman of the year and should be a whiz next season. His running mate Boody Gilbertson missed two Oregon games with a bad ankle, but his play throughout the season rates him a top spot.

Other forwards prominently mentioned at forward are Fred Quinn of Idaho and Bob Sheridan (an ex-Oregon hooper) of Washington State. Quinn was knocked out early with an injury, but according to impressions received here, the 1946 All-Coaster was a disappointment to his teammates as well. Sheridan reportedly came along fast late in the season, but in his showings against Oregon he gave little to write home about.

... Saturday night's foul-toting exhibition with the Webfoots being dinged 40 times should approach some kind of a record, even though such statistics are very difficult to check on. Hobson chose to play a full-court forcing game and fouls were inevitable. To a large extent the plan was successful, too, as the Ducks came up with 23 interceptions. ... Expected today is an announcement from Oregon State as to a new athletic director. Most boys are putting the blue chips on Spec Keene.

8 Prep Berths Settled

Remaining Playoffs Slated During Week

Half of the 16 berths in the state high school hoop tourney slated for McArthur court March 11-15 have been cinched, and the rest of the places will be decided over the coming weekend.

Latest prep squads to grab places in the basketball extravaganza are Hood River, Newberg, Sandy, and Redmond. Teams that had earlier gained a right to the Eugene trip are Washington of Portland, Eugene, Astoria, and Lebanon.

Several close games are expected in the tilts to decide the district championships that have not yet been settled. In district 4 Klamath Falls and Medford clash in two contests that rate as toss-ups. Other tight frays are expected in district 9, when Tigard and Hillsboro square

off; and in 14, when Rainier and St. Helens meet.

In district 16, which is the runner-up in the Portland league, a tie is probable between Roosevelt and Jefferson, which would necessitate a playoff. Salem is expected to cop the district 11 toga from Sacred Heart, and Milwaukie is rated over Molalla in district 12. La Grande already has won one leg of a three-game tourney with Ontario and anticipates another.

A unique situation crops up in division 5. Marshfield and Myrtle Point were playing in a vital game when, with five minutes left in the tilt, a power failure forced the game to be stopped. The Pirates from Marshfield were

ahead by 17 points at the time, and so when the remainder of the game is played this week little trouble is anticipated.

The tournament is expected to be the most successful and colorful in the history of the event, due in part to greater attendance. McArthur court has a 6700 capacity compared to last year's site, Willamette gymnasium, with a 2200 capacity.

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