

Scouts Impressed As Duck Gridmen Trample Gauchos

Perhaps the "Rose Bowl talk" will not be in vain. Jim Aiken shifted his classy 1948 football machine into high gear last Saturday afternoon at Hayward field, and the resulting 60-minutes of grid action proved to one and all that the Oregon Webfoots are as strong as pre-season notices maintained, and that they are a definite threat to walk off with the Pacific Coast conference championship.

In dropping a 55-7 decision to the power-laden Ducks, the visiting Santa Barbara Gauchos were outmanned and outplayed in every respect, except at the opening kickoff, when Halfback Ken Duddridge twisted 86 yards on a well-hidden reverse from San Cathcart to give the Gauchos first blood and a six point lead. Duddridge kicked the extra point to make it 7-0, Santa Barbara.

That one play was perhaps the best thing that happened to the high-spirited Oregon squad, since they weren't caught napping a second time.

Backs Take Over

Oregon Quarterback Norm Van Brocklin merely turned the game over to the Aiken hoard of shifty, speedy backs, and just a scant three minutes after Duddridge's thrilling sprint, Oregon's Johnny McKay had taken a Van Brocklin pass and scampered over. Van Brocklin booted the extra point, first of seven for the afternoon, to tie the score. Woodley Lewis helped set up this first score with two yards and the other covering 18 yards. Lewis retired with a shoulder injury after these two gains, and McKay took over at the left half post.

From that first TD on, it was simply a question of how many points the Webfoots could pile up. End Dick Wilkins hopped on a Gaucho fumble to pave the way for a second Lemon and Green touchdown. With the ball on Santa Barbara's 26-yard line, Van Brocklin flipped a beauty to Darrell Robinson, who was forced out on the four. Bob Sanders cracked over from there.

Bell Scores

George Bell scored his touchdown late in the first period to make it 21-7 Oregon, when Van Brocklin converted. After Sanders moved the ball to the Santa Barbara one-foot line, Bell sliced over right guard to score.

A 170-pound package of gridiron swift, Left half McKay racked up Oregon's next 12 points, the first on a sparkling 34-yard gallop and the second from one yard out. After Van Brocklin missed the first and made the second extra point, the scoreboard read Oregon 34, Santa Barbara 7. McKay, with 18 points, was the leading Duck scorer.

Holcomb on Punt Return

Benny Holcomb, usually a defensive stalwart, proved he could really scamper by scoring Oregon's final first-half touchdown on a 35-yard punt return. Gaucho Bob Baker, trapped behind his goal line, finally got his kick away, only to have Holcomb gather it in and travel all the way behind effective blocking. Van Brocklin again con-

verted to make the halftime score 41-7, Ducks.

Another Gaucho fumble, recovered this time by Jim Berwick, gave reserve fullback Bud Bouqua a chance to add still another six points. He piled through a gaping hole from six yards out. After Keith DeCoursey intercepted a Gaucho pass, little Bob "Bunny" Easter took a pitch-out and scooted 48 yards to the Santa Barbara four. De Coursey took over from there to score Oregon's final touchdown of the game. Van Brocklin kicked these two final extra points for the final 55-7 score.

Both coaches cleaned their benches in the second half, Aiken using 46 players and Williamson 32. Reserves battled all-even in the last quarter, until the Gauchos threatened to score again late in the game. Oregon first stringers were trundled in to put out the fire.

Visiting sports writers and scouts were properly impressed with the power displayed by Aiken's wrecking crew. Scout Ernie McCoy of Michigan especially noticed Oregon's backfield speed and bruising line play, as did Mal Edward of Stanford.

Daniels Chosen

The Santa Barbara squad picked out Chet Daniels, sophomore guard, as Oregon's most effective lineman, but it would be difficult to select one or two standouts from the host of Webfoots who played a fine game.

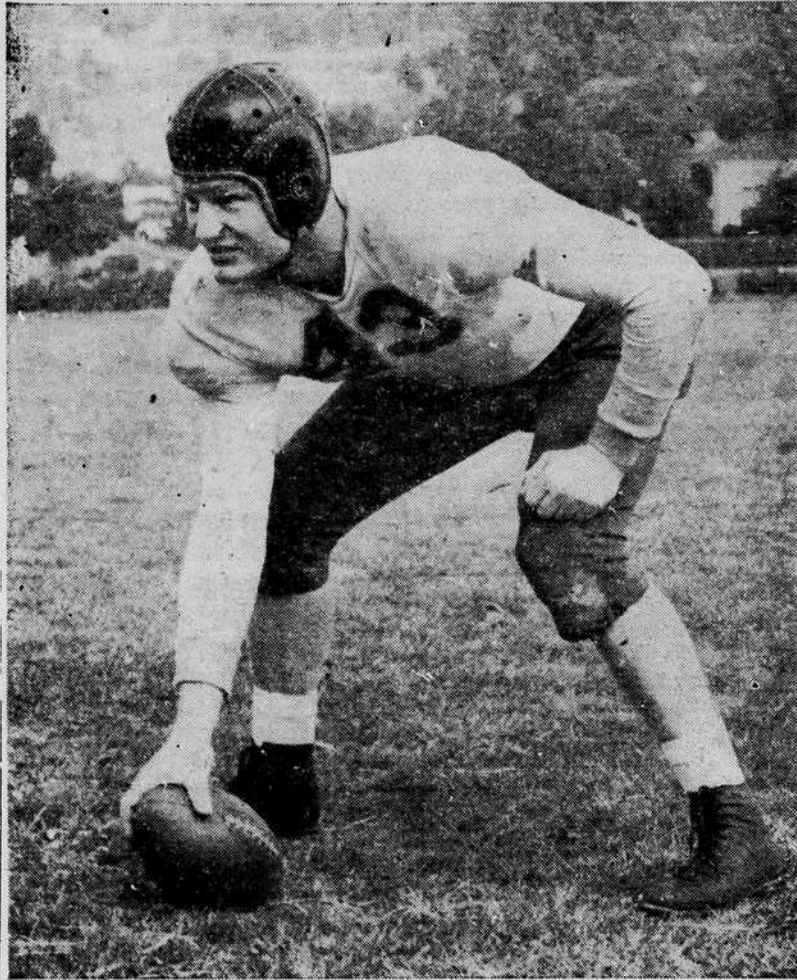
Duck backfield men put on an impressive show, although a weak Gaucho defense gave our men the chance to ramble at will. Reserve Quarterbacks Earl Stelle and Joe Tom both saw action behind Van Brocklin. Stelle flashed ball-handling skill with several smooth hand-offs, and Tom's passing clicked for gains. Van Brocklin played his usual fine game at quarter.

Halfbacks Lewis, McKay, Bell, Easter, DeCoursey, and Jim Aiken all made their share of yardage, as a glance at the averages will illustrate. Easter, a mite of a ball player, had the top yards per-carry average, with 16.8 average on four tries. Lewis followed with a 16-pertry average on two carries. McKay proved to be Aiken's backfield workhorse, packing the ball 11 times to gain 114 yards.

Bob Sanders was the leading ground-gainer at fullback, going for 25 yards on four tries. Ken Maine followed with 24 yards on two carries.

The turf on Hayward field seemed to be in good shape for the game, viewed by more than 10,000 opening day fans. No action is on tap in Eugene until October 23, when the Ducks entertain Washington State's Cougars in the annual Homecoming game.

Out to Stop Stanford This Week...



END DAN GARZA, TOP, AND CENTER BRAD ECKLUND, bottom are expected to give another fine performance in the weekend game with Stanford. Both men will be starters for Jim Aiken's eleven when Oregon takes the field in Palo Alto this Saturday.

Aiken Calls Indian Test 'Key' Game

"I believe that the Stanford game is the key game coming up. If we win, I feel we will start rolling," stated Coach Jim Aiken at football practice yesterday. "Stanford has a good team and is laying for us, so this is one game we have to win," he added.

The Duck mentor sent the grid squad through a light workout without pads yesterday, and gave them a pep talk to make them realize just how serious the coming game is. Today he plans to give the team a chalk talk, with backfield coach and scout Frank Zazula explaining the Stanford offense and defense. This will be followed by a full workout with the entire squad suited up with pads.

Aiken Pleased

Aiken was well pleased with the results of the first game, especially the running attack. The only department that looked weak was the passing attack, "and that wasn't the fault of the passer," he said. "Van was remarkably accurate with the seven passes he threw, (Please turn to page five)

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