

DUCK TRACKS

By **BOB REED**
Co-Sports Editor

The Oregon Webfoots take another hitch in their belt this week and prepare for the first crucial test of the season against Stanford in Palo Alto this Saturday.

Two days of practice remain, one light workout probably to be held this afternoon, and another session tomorrow after the team arrives in California. The team will leave Eugene on the 8:48 Cascade.

A Key Game for Webfoots

Marchie Schwartz's gang of Indians in Palo Alto are all set for Oregon. Stanford, given a pre-season rating as just another ball club, sneaked past San Jose last week, and from all indications they are more than ready to give Oregon one whale of a battle.

Aiken termed this contest a key ball game, both from the morale standpoint and from the victory standpoint, and he was not far wrong. Obviously, the outcome of Saturday's game will be an important factor in the consideration of prospects for the remainder of the season.

Oregon should have most of the kinks ironed out that showed up in the Santa Barbara tilt by the time the Ann Arbor battle with Michigan draws near. Jim Aiken knows the importance that mistakes play in a game with a highly seasoned foe such as Michigan, and we know that although the pressure will not be as great, he will have his eleven alert and playing heads-up ball.

Yesterday an announcement on these pages requested a big turn out at the send-off rally tonight at the station. We sincerely hope that the rally squad will not be disappointed. Too many times as this has a rally such as tonight failed to draw the enthusiasm needed.

Major League Races Still Torrid

The major league pennant races ring down the curtain for 1948 on Sunday, October 3. The World Series starts three days later in the park of the National League champions.

Yet most people have almost forgotten the fact that this season has witnessed the hottest pennant races in both leagues in many years. Faced with the onrushing football season, most sports fans have turned a new interest without watching the finish of the long horsehide fight.

The champions still remain to be determined for both leagues. The Boston Braves seemed to have the title all but cinched in the National, but in the American anything can still happen. And in big league cities like New York, Boston, and Cleveland loyal fans are not ready as yet to count their favorites out of the World Series.

Boston Still on Top

Boston, managed by venerable Joe McCarthy, has a slim one game margin over second place Cleveland. New York, in third place, is right behind the two leaders.

Now, who has the best chance to come out on top. Earl Mack, son of the Philadelphia Athletic's boss, Connie, selects New York because of their stronger pitching staff. Pitching, he says, will decide the pennant, and the Yanks with hurlers like Raschi, Shea, Reynolds, Lopat, Page, and Porterfield do rank strong in this department.

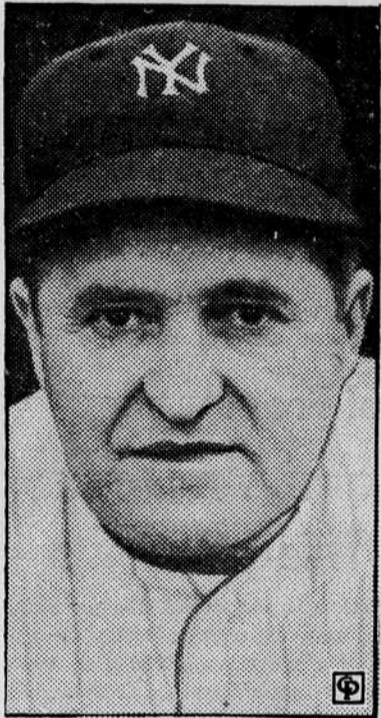
Boston and New York still have five games to be played against each other, three in Yankee stadium and two in Fenway Park in Boston. Cleveland could seize this opportunity, if the Red Sox and Yanks divide their series, to tip-toe past both clubs and into the series.

Tribe Pitching Falters

But the Tribe's front line hill starters have begun to falter in the Speed-up stretch drive, and the Indians have slowed down even more now that Lou Boudreau has slumped in his batting.

The Red Sox will have to keep their fingers crossed if they hope to wind up in the series, and the Yanks will have to rely on pitching to put them on top. Meanwhile, the Cleveland crew will have to watch for a break that may or may not appear.

The only sure thing is the fact that series tickets will be available. Thirteen sets of ducats have been printed to prepare for any eventuality.



JOE MCCARTHY

Freshmen Work Hard In Practice

With about two weeks remaining until the first frosh football game, the process of separating the men from the boys continued last night as Coach Bill Bowerman sent his gridders through a two hour scrimmage.

Two backfield units were alternated on the offensive team. The first group consisted of Jim Calderwood, Baker, quarterback; Tommy Edwards, Klamath Falls, left half; Emile Holeman, Pendleton, right half; and George Wirtjes of Portland at fullback.

Holeman Stars

Leo Gillnett, Longview, Wash., quarterbacked the other backfield of Phil Liberty, San Francisco, left half; Lew Langer, Ashland, right half; and Chuck Missfeldt, Milwaukee, fullback.

Edwards and Holeman, a pair of fast, tricky scatbacks proved hard to bring down on end runs with the latter outrunning the defense three times for what would have been sure touchdowns.

Langer Shows Power

Right half Langer, a tackle for the up-state team in the Shriner game, looked right at home in the right half spot and evidenced both power and deception.

Calderwood and Gillnett both hit their receivers consistently with fast, accurate passes. Jerry Leslie, Ashland end, was their favorite target.

Reserve Promising

Bill Abbey, backfield coach, and line coach Steve Mezzera took charge of another outfit at the other end of the practice field. Chuck Dimon, halfback from Portland, and Guard Ken Kirkpatrick, Lewiston, Idaho, sparkled for the offensive squad.

The Ducklings play their opener under the Multnomah field lights, October 8, against the University of Washington Pups. They travel to Corvallis to meet the Oregon State Rooks in their second game, encounter Vanport at Portland October 30, play host to the Rooks at home November 6, and close the season in Portland November 13 against Portland University's Frosh.

Duckling Coach

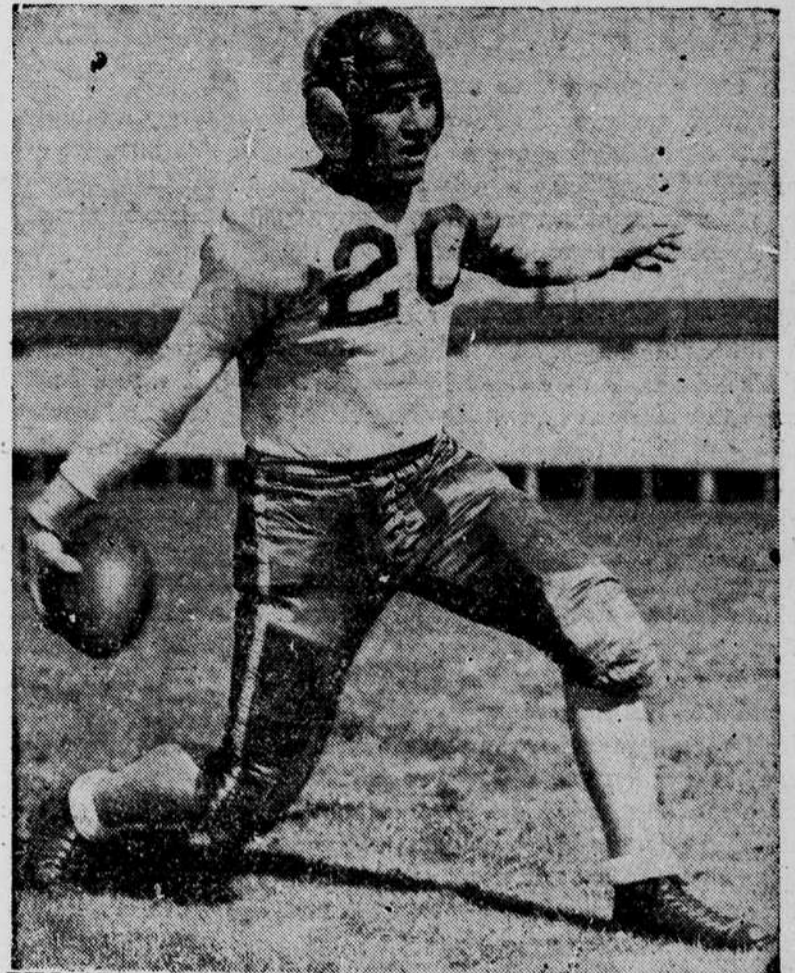


NEW HEAD coach for the freshmen and also varsity track coach is Bill Bowerman, up from Medford where he had a brilliant record in both sports.

In 1924, Forest Peters, a freshman at Montana State kicked 17 field goals in one game, a record not only for one game but for an entire season.

In 1919, the first year UCLA played football, the Bruins played only high school and junior college teams, winning two games and losing six.

Former Duck Now Coach



BILL ABBEY, WHO LETTERED IN football for three years, is the backfield coach for the 1948 edition of the freshmen team. He is assisting Bill Bowerman, head freshmen coach. Abbey played quarterback in 1945, 1946 and 1947 and except for injuries would be playing this year.

Vandals Fear Utah Game; Hit By Injuries of Vital Players

Idaho, defeated by Oregon State last Saturday, is not looking forward to their game with Utah this Saturday night. They have been plagued by injuries all season, and the picture is not looking any better. Though bothered slightly before the OSC game with injuries, two of the top Vandal backs suffered still more after that game, and both were regulars. They were big 212 pound fullback Sam Theis and veteran quarterback Russ Moffett. Both may see some action against Utah, but it will be limited.

Another quarterback, Ted Diehl, is also on the injured list, leaving the Vandals seriously weakened in this spot. Taking over will be Jerry Diehl, brother of Ted, who lettered last year at right half.

Another trouble-spot for Coach Dixie Howell is at center. The top man, Ralph Paasch, a three year

letterman, is also in doubtful shape and will see little if any action. Paasch weighs 205 and has been a Vandal bulwark since entering Idaho.

Adding more trouble to the Idaho mentor is a knee injury to Captain Ed McFaul, an outstanding end. He may play, but it looks very doubtful, and to make it still worse, there is no one behind him with much experience.

The reserve problem was not helped by the temporary loss to the squad of two guards who had been counted on to see reserve action. They are Win Bishop, a letterman from last season, and Denny Anderson.

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