

# Ducks Face Linfield In Exhibition Today To Open '49 Season

## Three Pitchers Figure to Twirl In Local Debut

Oregon's Varsity baseball team opens its pre-season schedule this afternoon at 3 p. m. against the Linfield Wildcats on one condition. The condition, weather permitting, is well remembered from last year. Lower Howe field, already soggy from rain, will be the site of the game, if played.

Today's tilt starts the Ducks' 12 game pre-season slate, which pits them against the Willamette nine tomorrow afternoon here, and sends them to Portland Friday and Saturday for double-headers with Lewis and Clark and Portland University.

**LINFIELD**, of unknown quantity and quality, usually fields a good team in the Northwest Conference, and is coached by Henry Lever, who has been head man there for a number of years.

Webfoot Coach Don Kirsch, who is beginning his second year in that position and guided last season's team to second place in the Northern Division, has an experienced squad back with the exception of the catching slot.

The pitching staff is also now a question mark, as the eligibility of the number one hurler, Southpaw Bewayne Johnson, is doubtful.

**IF JOHNSON** is declared definitely ineligible, the pitching corps will have to be built around the two remaining lettermen, Homer Brobst and Dick DeBernardi.

Both will probably take the mound for a three-inning stint against the Wildcats today, with Sophomore Jim Hanns also likely to see action.

Three catchers, Dale Warberg, Hal Torkelson, and Gene Rose, appear to have the inside track for the position. Warberg, who caught for the Vanport Vikings last season, is the likely starter today.

Both the infield and outfield are well stocked with veterans, challenged by last years' Frosh and junior college transfers.

**PROBABLE** infield starters against the Wildcats are Dick Bartelt at first base, Walt Kirsch at second, Al Cohen at short stop, and Don Kimball at third.

Kirsch will probably use Hal Zurcher, Pat Wohlers, Don Dibble, Ray Stratton, Norm Henwood, and Johnny Kovenz in the outfield.

All six are lettermen and give the Ducks more than adequate depth in the outer garden.

## All-Webfoot Meet Set for Tracksters

First preview of Head Coach Bill Bowerman's overhauling of Oregon track and field in an effort to get it back to its pre-war level will be seen when he sends his Varsity cindermen against the Frosh harriers here Thursday and Friday afternoon.

Weight of field events are scheduled for Thursday while the distance running matches have been set for Friday, Bowerman said.

Bowerman is tackling his first year as head cinderman of the Ducks. He replaced John Warren, Webfoot basketball chief, who pinch hit during the 1948 season for the late Colonel Bill Hayward.

**HOWEVER, BOWERMAN** has only eight returning lettermen to mold the 1949 edition around. Coming back to the Duck fold for another year of competition are George Rasmussen, ND pole vault king, Lou Robinson, PCC javelin champ, Ray Heidenrich, Dave Henthorne, Jack Doyle, Pete Mundle, Don Pickens, all two-year lettermen, and Bob Weber, a one-year sprinter and broad jumper.

Bowerman has introduced a new coaching aid on the Duck track this season by taking movies of both varsity and freshman candidates in practice.

These moving pictures have helped a great deal to bring the Webfoots along in early season drills.

**THE POLE VAULT** and javelin throw will be the strong points of this year's track regime. Topped by Rasmussen, the Ducks will have three and perhaps four men in the pole vault who are capable of chalking up points. Behind Rasmussen, Bowerman has Don Pickens who has shown considerable improvement since last year when he usually copped the runner-up spot behind Rasmussen. Back of these two, are Lloyd Hickok, co-City champion in Portland while vaulting for Grant, and Don Reeves, top vaulter from the Frosh last season.

Led by Pacific Coast Conference Lou Robinson, the Ducks should annex points consistently in the javelin.

With these point laden years already behind him, Robinson will be winding up his Varsity track career this spring.

**BOWERMAN SAID** Robinson would consistently throw the spear better than 200 feet all season.

Back of Robinson are Earl Stelle, former state high school champ from Medford; Keith DeCoursey and Bus Newcomer, giving the Ducks plenty of depth in this event.

Remolding the distance events has been the task that has given Coach Bowerman pre-season worries.

However, a lot of hard work by Walt McClure in the half-mile, Pete Mundle in the mile and two-mile, and Pete Murer in the hurdles has plugged this gap quite securely.

## Linksmen Journey to Victoria For Initial Meet on April 16

Oregon's 1949 varsity golf team will get its christening on April 16 when it treks northward to Victoria college to match shots with that Canadian stronghold.

This will mark the first of seven scheduled meets and will serve to sharpen up the boys for the Northern Division season which gets under tow the following weekend, April 22, against Idaho.

Hub of this year's outfit are

Captain Dom Provost, John Price and Bob Sederstrom, all lettermen.

## Writers Wanted!

All purveyors of lucid words (otherwise known as writers) who want to join the Daily Emerald Sports staff this term are requested to meet in the sports office in the Emerald Shack this afternoon at 4 o'clock.



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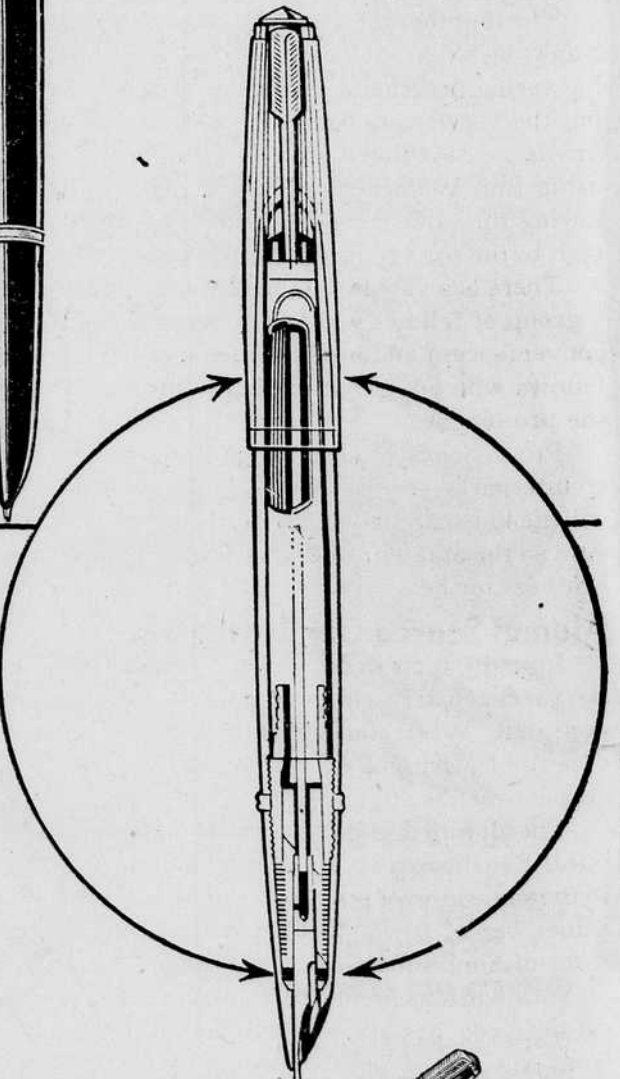
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