

DUCK TRACKS

By DAVE TAYLOR
Emerald Sports Editor

1949 football at Oregon may be a thing of the past, but the memory lingers on. During the last few weeks of the campaign the Emerald sports department was receiving a flood of letters, all to the effect of "Why can't Oregon win a game?" Well, the letter that is printed in this column today should help give a clearer understanding of the Ducks' misfortunes and a little of what to expect during the 1950 season. The letter, written by Coach Jim Aiken, is the same one that appears in the December issue of Old Oregon.

The Coach's Letter

Dear Alumni,

1949 was a tough year for Oregon football fans. Last year, in my annual OLD OREGON letter, I said that Oregon couldn't win all their games all the time—I even went so far as to say that the Ducks might lose some games this season. But I didn't think we would lose as many as we did.

I had greatly hoped that the boys would be able to snap out of their four-game losing streak to win the big game, the Oregon State battle.

Mental lapses and mechanical errors, along with bad breaks, time and again cost us games we should have won during the season. With the season's most important game approaching the final college game for 16 of the team members, I hoped we would end the season with a victory. But we couldn't quite do it. Everyone played hard and well in that game, and gave their best, the most that can be asked of anyone.

A coach, as well as the players, hates to lose. It's a blow to his pride when a game ends in defeat for him. He likes to feel that he can send his boys against any team, and make a creditable showing. I have made the statement that Oregon will play anybody, anytime, anywhere, and give its opponents a good battle. I don't intend to amend that statement just because we lost six games this year. The Oregon athletic department is going to continue to schedule tough opponents. It is up to the coaching staff to build a team which can meet these teams without fear.

This was the second time in my 27 years of coaching that my team has failed to win half of its games in one season. I am not used to losing, and neither are the other members of my coaching staff. In the football coaching game, as well as in all other sports, one must learn to take defeat, but we don't intend to make a habit of it here at Oregon.

Fifteen veteran players departed from the team this year. Next season we will have a younger, less experienced squad. But these boys are willing and capable. Oregon had a good freshman football team this season, one that lost only one game. There are several members of this team who are fine varsity material, fellows who are big and strong, who love the game, and who will work long and hard to reach perfection. Many players on the varsity this fall who will be back next year gained valuable experience which will make them vital members of the 1950 Oregon football team.

The task before the coaching staff is a big one. We will have to work hard, and spare no pains, to build a football team of which the alumni and students of Oregon can be proud. One thing can be sure—next year Oregon will again field a fighting team, one trying to win all the time.

Sincerely,
Jim Aiken
Football coach.

Notre Dame, Champion of Champions

Genial Jim is right. Oregon will have a fighting football team next year for, although 16 men will be gone from this year's squad, men like Stelle, Fell, Gibilisco, Daugherty, Patrick, Gibson, and all the rest remain in the Webfoot camp to form the nucleus from which to build.

Added to this group, as Aiken mentioned, is a better-than-fair bunch of recruits from this year's Duckling team. Yes, with a little luck and a lot of hard work 1950 could be another boom year for Oregon and its followers.

Now looking to South Bend, Ind. where Notre Dame has been named the "champion of champions" of modern day college football. The Fighting Irish beat out Michigan for the No. 1 position in an appraisal of all the Associated Press final polls since the feature was started back in 1936. The Irish have finished in the first ten in 11 of the 13 final standings and have led three times to be recognized as the national champion.

The Golden Gophers of Minnesota, the scourge of the late '30s and early '40s, finished just ahead of Army's Black Knights of the Hudson who dominated football during the war years when Doc Blanchard and Glenn Davis were tearing up the turf for many a first down.

Minturn Edges Sigs, 2-1

Santos Leads Vet's Dorm Team To Avenge Win

By PHIL JOHNSON

Two great planets of the volleyball universe collided yesterday afternoon, and after the smoke drifted away, the championship hopes of Sigma Chi had disappeared, while Minturn Hall was still following the title path.

The fighting Sigma Chi 'A' squad didn't give up the ghost until the furious 70-minute battle of the giants was finally concluded. The Chis won the first tilt, then lost a breath-taking 15-13 struggle, and finally dropped the deciding game after waging a brilliant but futile six-point rally.

It is generally conceded that the two teams were battling for the "A" division crown, although the powerful Minturns must go through the formality of winning the championship game against Chi Psi Thursday, and they will be top-heavy favorites in that contest.

By winning yesterday's thriller, Minturn avenged its loss to Sigma Chi in the 1948 championship game. It also ruined an undefeated season for Sigma Chi and successfully defended their own unblemished record.

The game not only was a major encounter between two great teams, but it also featured a personal duel between Minturn's Louie Santos and Ed Eveland of S. C., both of whom played with their usual brilliant form.

Although the Minturns took a 3-1 lead in the initial clash, S. C. knotted the count at 3-3 and then pulled ahead 5-3. Minturn bounced right back to tie the score 5-5 and then go into the lead 6-5, but Sigma Chi again tied the score (6-6) and regained the lead.

The combatants were deadlocked again at 11-11 and 13-13, and then Minturn came within one point of victory by gaining a 14-13 advantage. Then a Sigma Chi rally accounted for three straight points and a 16-14 victory.

The second game almost developed into a rout as the dormitory sextet roared to an impressive 8-1 lead, but S. C. suddenly returned to form and tied the score at 8-8. It was tied again at 9-9, 11-11, and 13-13 before Minturn broke loose for a 15-13 triumph.

The finale was tied at 2-2, 4-4, and 6-6, but the Minturns then gained the lead, steadily widened the margin, and found themselves ahead 14-6 a few moments later.

That set the stage for one of the great thrills of a thrill-packed conflict as S. C. rallied and gradually closed the gap separating the teams. Sigma Chi finally succumbed 15-12, and the curtain closed on the IM game of the year.

In the only other "A" contest, Chi Psi defeated Phi Delta Gamma 15-5 and 16-4 for the chance to meet Minturn Thursday. Semi-finalists were determined in "B" di-

vision games when Phi Gamma Delta conquered Beta Theta 15-6 and 15-7, and Phi Delta Theta outlasted Chi Psi 7-15, 15-9, and 15-11. The Phi Deltas meet Sigma Alpha Epsilon this afternoon while Phi Gamma Delta faces the Minturn Bees.

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District Court Hears

Gene Harlow, senior in political science who was arrested Sunday night, appeared before the district court Monday and pleaded not guilty to the charge of assault and battery which had been placed against him.

Ira McAtee, arrested with Harlow, pleaded guilty to a charge of disorderly conduct.

No date has been set for further disposition of the cases.