

DUCK TRACKS

By GLENN GILLESPIE

The 1950 Northern Division basketball race is finally underway, with all five teams having played a conference opponent. Washington's Huskies lead the field so far, with two victories over Idaho. The Huskies now travel to Pullman for two games with WSC this weekend, while Oregon and Oregon State play a single game at Corvallis.

From the Oregon standpoint, things are looking pretty fair. With only two games on a 16-game PCC slate in the book, no predictions or promises can be made. However, the Oregon team that split with Washington State was a good team.

Coach John Warren has collected a young and spirited bunch of ballplayers who like nothing better than to win games. If they keep playing like they did this weekend, who knows?

Nobody seems to care about Oregon's dismal pre-season record. The Ducks managed to win only two of eleven warm-up games, but these conference victories are the ones that count.

Sowers' Return Was Worth Waiting For

McArthur Court fans took a "what we've been waiting for" attitude when they saw Paul Sowers swish that first bucket Friday night. With Will Urban now back in the lineup, the Ducks are again a complete team.

Sowers' performance in both games was amazing, considering his sacroiliac condition and the fact that he'd been out since mid-December. His 15 Friday night points came on seven field goals in 11 attempts, a terrific shooting average, plus one free throw. The blond forward added six fielders in 13 attempts Saturday, a .541 accuracy percentage for two games.

Ed Gayda was the defensive goat most of the time Friday night, although the big rebound man did a better job Saturday. Gayda, usually a tight defensive player, had trouble holding Sowers in check. A taped ankle probably bothered Gayda, since he didn't join in backboard skirmishes with his usual gusto.

The difference seemed to be Sowers' practiced fake and his ability to get the shot off instantly. That song-and-dance fake with feet and head, a quick step backward, and then swish it was through, before Gayda could make a move.

Other factors in Friday night's win included the hard work of Dale Warberg, who scored 23 points in two games, and Jack Keller's drive and eight points. Jim Vranizan, starting his second varsity game, gathered in a good number of rebounds. If his scoring improves, Vranizan may develop into a first-rate center.

Gene Conley Sure to Become Cougar 'Great'

The hottest piece of basketball machinery on the floor either night wore a crimson uniform. Cougar Gene Conley, an 18-year-old sophomore from Richland, Wash., gave them all something to talk about.

At six feet, seven inches, young Conley is the brightest prospect to come out of the Palouse hills since Vince Hanson and Gale Bishop performed in red and white togs. He shouldn't be classed with these greats quite yet, but Conley's on the way.

The big boy scored 21 points Friday and added 17 the second night for a 38-point series. At that, he "tied up" several times in the first game, missing what should have been easy lay-up baskets. The towering Cougar didn't miss any Saturday night. Conley tried his whirl six times, finishing with six baskets. He plays an effective rebound game too, and should be an ND terror before he leaves WSC.

In 16 Washington State games this season, the lanky center has scored 234 points, a 14.6 per game average. Conley has tallied 71 points in four conference games, for a 17.7 average. If the boy keeps scoring like that the records won't have a chance.

Sophomore Specializes on Deadly Hook Shot

Conley specializes on a look-easy hook shot which is deadly in close. Of course he was shooting over the heads of shorter men, but this doesn't detract from Conley's ability. Jack Friel is mighty glad the youngster decided to play his basketball at home. Any time Conley scores less than 30 points in a two-game series, he's way under par.

Those Cougars always manage to have one man carry the scoring load. Last year it was Gayda who paced them, and Hanson the year before. Conley won't need much help this season.

Another sophomore who looked like a fixture in Friel's first platoon was 18-year-old Ted Tappe, a curly-haired speedster with a nice long shot. Tappe is a transfer from Olympic Junior College, where he set a scoring record of 19 points per game.



JOHN WARREN

IM's Swing Into Action Today

Huskies Surprise With Torrid 1949 Cage Campaign

With 13 contests in the record book, Coach Art McLarney's surprising Huskies have compiled the top basketball record among the major schools on the Pacific Coast. The hard-fighting Huskies have rung up 12 triumphs in 13 starts—the only loss being a two-point defeat at the hands of then-unbeaten Minnesota.

Washington stopped the Gophers the following night to put the only blemish on the Minnesotans 1949-50 cage record.

A major factor in the Huskies enviable pre-conference campaign has been their tight defensive play which has allowed but 46.9 points per game—one of the best records on the Pacific Coast. Only four times have opposing clubs been able to run up more than 50 points on the Purple and Gold.

Street car and bus companies should have our welfare as well as our fare at heart.

HANDBALL

4:00 ATO vs. Lambda Chi

BASKETBALL

3:50 Delts vs. Philadelphia

4:35 Minturn vs. Campbell Club

5:15 Phi Kaps vs. Agates

Basketball and handball officially step into the Winter term limelight today when six cage crews and two handball squads open intramural action.

Thirty-one games are slated for the 32 team handball tournament which will last until Feb. 20. Seventy-six "A" and "B" basketball crews will be vying for championship berths in the 150 game slate. The final games of the IM hoop schedule are slated for Feb. 23.

The completion of winter term '49 saw Delta Tau Delta winning the basketball "A" title; Sigma Chi the basketball "B" title; handball champion for the third successive year was Sigma Alpha Mu.

Barclay Hurts Ankle

Court Barclay, regular forward, provided the only sour note of the Frosh weekend when he sprained his ankle during Friday night's action. He will be out of the lineup indefinitely.

It's easy to laugh at misfortune when you're the one it misses.

Sign Ex-Vol Great To Bruin End Slot; Balitsaris Resigns

Blonde, husky William F. "Bill" Barnes, end coach and scout for the University of Arkansas football team for the last four seasons, is UCLA's new end coach following the resignation of Mike Balitsaris to "take a job back in the South."

Affable Billy, 32 and married, was one of the finest ends to play at the University of Tennessee. He performed for the Vol varsity in 1937-8-9 and was a member of the 1938 team, considered Tennessee's greatest, which defeated the University of Oklahoma in the Orange Bowl. He was also on the team which lost to USC in the Rose Bowl game of 1940.

The new Bruin wing mentor, who will have a great All-American candidate in Bob Wilkinson to tutor next fall, began his coaching career as assistant and scout at his alma mater in 1940.

NEW career opportunities for you in the U. S. AIR FORCE as an

OFFICER AND NAVIGATOR



In this era of long range flights, the role of the navigator has become increasingly important.

The U. S. Air Force now offers new opportunities to young college men between the ages of 20 and 26½ who are single and can qualify for such training.

If you can meet the high physical and educational standards (at least two years of college), and are selected, you can be among the first to attend the new one-year navigator training course at Ellington Air Force Base near Houston, Texas. A new class begins each month!

You'll be an Aviation Cadet! And, you'll receive the best available training—including 184 hours in the new T-29 "Flying Classroom."

Then, graduation! You'll win your wings as a navigator . . . and a commission as a Second Lieutenant in the Air Force. After a 30-day leave with pay, you'll be ready for challenging assignments as navigator with one of the famous commands in the U. S. Air Force. Your office will be the "front office" of mighty bombers or long-range transports!

Be among the first to win your wings as a U. S. Air Force navigator under the new navigator training program—be a key man on the Air Force team!



Air Force officer procurement teams are visiting many colleges and universities to explain these career opportunities. Watch for their arrival—or get full details at your nearest Air Force Base, U. S. Army and U. S. Air Force Recruiting Station, or by writing to the Chief of Staff, U. S. Air Force, Attention: Aviation Cadet Branch, Washington 25, D. C.

Other Flying, Non-Flying Careers
 Aviation Cadet pilot training is also available to young men between the ages of 20 and 26 1/2. See about the many nonflying assignments, too! Never before in peacetime has there been such a good opportunity for college-trained men and women to obtain regular commissions in the United States Air Force.



U. S. AIR FORCE

ONLY THE BEST CAN BE AVIATION CADETS!