

DUCK TRACKS

By TOM KING

While all other ball clubs in the Northern Division were wildly beating on drums of varying sizes, thumping tubs of varying resonances, and generally raising a lot of fuss over their chances in the 1950 basketball race, the Washington Huskies were going, quietly about their work. They sharpened up for the long grind by practicing basketball. Otherwise they sat tight.

As regularly as the mailman arrived a raft of publicity notices flooded in for Washington State and Oregon State. It was to be a two-team chase this time—the rest of the ND might as well go hide.

A Quick Revision of Pre-conceived Plans

Well, somewhere along the line the thing slipped up. WSC and OSC forgot to inform Washington of their plans. All of which leads up to the fact that Art McLarney's allegedly inept Huskies are now straddled atop the division standings. And everybody else is on the downside looking up.

The Huskies, tagged for the depths, first gave an indication of their potential strength when they breezed through a smashing exhibition season. It left most experts limp, but still doubtful. An upset triumph over Stanford, a sweep against Columbia, and a split with Minnesota pointed the way.

Even Husky Publicist Waxed Pessimistic

But most observers still were thinking about those pre-season releases from Seattle. To quote: "The Huskies are a year or maybe two away from another team of championship potentialities.

"They'll likely finish somewhere near the middle of the final standings." This came from a Mr. Bert Rose, who only happens to be Washington's athletic news service director—the Washington counterpart of Oregon's capable Art Lichtman.

So now Oregon has its chance to slap down the Huskies and make a move to its own toward the top. It'll be a difficult trick—and the result will have a heavy bearing on Oregon's status in the ND. In fact, the series may be the turning point in the campaign for both teams.

Louie Soriano, who sounds like an underworld character but who possesses a deadly one-handed push shot, is the man the Ducks will have to watch.

And local fans will watch him themselves Jan. 27 and 28 when the Huskies play in McArthur Court.

The whole thing should be something to see.

Progress: A Plan for Boxing at Oregon

A note to boxing fans in general and Junior Representative Herb Nill in particular:

It's not secret that of all the things needed at Oregon in the way of athletics, an expanded sports program is foremost.

Thus it was gratifying to see the new Junior Representative make formation of a boxing team the crux of his petition for office.

Perhaps at last some practical way may be found to put boxing—and even wrestling—on the collegiate sports program.

This has been broached to Athletic Director Leo Harris before. His comments then were that: (1) athletics at Oregon is just coming out of its lethargy and that new projects would have to be undertaken slowly and one at a time; (2) boxing (as opposed to wrestling and skiing) heads the list as a potential sport at Oregon; (3) any additional sport will have to pay for itself financially—and boxing comes closest to doing this.

Boxing Was Big Sport Here Before War

On the whole, though, indications were that boxing was a long ways in the offing. Schools like Idaho have a strong fight program. So does Vanport. Oregon State recently had a varsity wrestling turnout of 19 men. But Oregon was unable to see its way clear. Perhaps conditions have changed—and chances are they have.

Certainly they look better. One has only to recall that before the war Oregon supported a very strong boxing and wrestling program—one of the strongest on the coast. The teams traveled extensively and drew veritable throngs to the matches.

Resumption, then, would merely be picking up where the pre-war program left off.

That Oregon previously had boxing and wrestling may come as a surprise to many. Believe it or not, Tex Oliver, the old grid boss, directed the wrestling team.

Now a push is being made by the new Junior Representative for its resumption. Let's hope it's a successful one.

An expanded sports program to include boxing deserves and undoubtedly will get the backing of every possible medium.

Court Post Selection Due Soon

A new sophomore representative to the student traffic court will be chosen by the ASUO Executive Council in its next meeting at 8 p.m. Monday in 103 Journalism.

Petitioners will be interviewed by the Council.

First Vice President Ed Anderson will report on freshman class elections and the Council will discuss plans.

CONSTITUTION REVISION

Constitutional revision will come up for debate, with a report by new Senior Representative Dick Neely scheduled.

Other business will include a discussion of campus drives, ASUO President Art Johnson stated.

SPECIAL PROJECTS

New Council members Virginia Wright, Herb Nill, Gordon Howard, and Neely will be assigned their special projects.

General plans for the term will take up a large portion of the meeting, Johnson said.

Profs Helped By Skinner Box

A Skinner box, valued at \$100, is the newest addition to the advanced psychology laboratory. Dr. Richard A. Littman is using the apparatus in a research project dealing with the social behavior of rats.

(A Skinner box is a type of problem box which contains a maze. It is used for observing the efforts of an animal to find its way through the maze to food.)

Dr. Littman, aided by Bob Blahah, senior in psychology, is testing his hypothesis: "animals deprived as infants are more likely to exhibit different kinds of productive behavior."

In June they will compare the actions, in the Skinner box, of two groups of rats, each of which had a different quality of diet during infancy.

Theta Chi, Sammies

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ATO GOES DOWN

Alpha Tau Omega suffered its first defeat of the young race when they were humbled by a Chi Psi quintet, 17-10. The bigger ATO crew could not find the basket, with the victors having only slightly better luck.

Another Sammie win was racked up when their handball crew took three straight matches from the YMCA.

'Heap Big Smoke' At Sigma Nu Fire

A fire at the Sigma Nu house last night shortly after dinner caused little damage other than filling the house with smoke.

The fire started in a pit around the furnace, and was detected by members of the house when smoke seeped up to the first floor. The Sigma Nu's had nearly extinguished the fire when the Eugene Fire Department arrived.

Huskies Leaders

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Ken Hunt also turned in a favorable performance in the workout. Hunt's faking was deceptive to the point of putting several players off their feet at some points in the practice.

Guard Ernie Baldini looked briefly like a one-man whirlwind as he worked with the team which was running the Washington offense against the Oregon first stringers.

Baldini drove in for layups several times, and sank some long shots from behind the key.

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