

DUCK TRACKS

By SAM FIDMAN
Emerald Sports Editor

One of the highly respected philosophies behind sports is the old proverb "It isn't that you win or lose, but how you played the game." Oregon's highly regarded track coach, Bill Bowerman, in his decision to "lope" his mile relay team in the event against Washington State, has drawn considerable fire from many angles. Following, for example, is a quotation from the lead sports column of the WSC Evergreen:

"Some 3000 spectators, mostly Oregon fans, attended this meet and many of them actually booed when they realized the situation. To have a meet climaxed by an event which one team causes to be a complete farce is, in this writer's opinion, a showing of an extreme lack of consideration for the fans and the opposing team. We hope that there never is a repeat performance of such an incident to mar the record of track, a sport which is steadily gaining strength in the Northwest."

Did He Did Or Did He Didn't

That same column also reprinted a letter to the Emerald from an Oregon student who protested against Bowerman's decision, and it presented the Webfoot mentor's side of the story. However, in a statement from Bob Campbell, assistant Cougar track coach, it was denied that Bowerman offered to concede the mile relay event, as he said in his letter to the editor, printed in the Emerald several weeks ago.

In a personal letter from Campbell, the Cougar coach also commented that Joe Nebolon, star WSC 440 man last year, who was cited by Bowerman as an example of what can happen when an athlete is overruled, did not receive his injury at the time or place that Bowerman indicated it had happened. Campbell also commented that the Cougar relay team felt pretty bad about the whole thing too.

The purpose here is not to tear into Bowerman, or anything like that. He is one man on campus who is strictly above reproach. A personal opinion on the matter is that both had their point. Bowerman did have an obligation to his relay men, and since he placed that obligation above all others, he acted in all sincerity and, probably after due consideration. The whole matter, if not fanned by the ink of the press, would probably have blown over in a matter of days, at least on the surface.

Ruffled Feathers, Relations

However, there is another side to consider. If the WSC squad harbored a hurt as a result of the "lope" affair, that sore of thing could lie underground and smoulder. Eventually it might breed bad relations. In years to come, if and when the Cougars come up with another championship track team, they might remember to pull the same decision on the Oregon team—and, just in speculation, it doesn't seem that the Ducks would like it at all. It would probably raise some ruffled feathers; it would be the basis for a whole set of ill-relations—which might be carried to other sports.

If such a thing can be, perhaps both sides of the question are right. Whether or not Bowerman was correct in his facts or not is not the important point. The big objection he raised was that the hateful, cumbersome 22-man rule put a crimp in track. The Duck coach was probably so concerned over his forthcoming meets, with the cramping pains of the "22 rule" prodding him like the thistle on a bush and a good chance for the championship, that he felt there was little else he could do than "lope" his men.

We would here like to make motion that any venom that was produced over the incident he redirected—at the "22-rule" and not let up until the party pooper of track is eliminated in the ND.

A Thorn in the Side

Northwest track teams simply cannot compete with southern division squads. Such a clash would be like running in a six-man football team against a regular eleven man crew—and there is absolutely no percentage in that especially if you are playing six-man football.

The half dozen griddy sport was developed mainly for the tiny colleges and rural high schools throughout the country, whose manpower is not great enough to field a quality regular sized outfit. That was not the original reason behind the 22 man limit, but it has come down to that. Institutions that are capable of producing championship "big teams" are held back by one strand of red tape. Boiling it down, the rule is a reactionary thorn in the side of progress.

Freshman Nine Halted by Rain

Three rained out games in three days are the results of last weekend's Frosh Baseball schedule.

Games arranged with Drain High school Thursday, the Oregon State Rooks Friday, and Eugene High school Saturday were all cancelled due to inclement weather or wet grounds.

Duckling Coach Marv Rasmussen announced that another meeting with the Rooks is slated for Friday in an attempt to open the annual four game series with Oregon State.

Rasmussen stated that mound duties will be handled by Don Allen, a transfer from Everett Junior College, Curt Barclay, and Jack Pyle. A complete lineup will be released later in the week.

IM Derby With Herby

(Continued from page four)
ists to make hay while the sun shines so graduation exercises will not be held-up hypothetically speaking

Golf Gossip

The golf picture is very clear. In the finals it will be Theta Chi vs. either Sigma Chi or Sigma Nu. Theta Chi toppled the Phi Deltas 9-3 in the semi-finals. Sigma Nu currently leads the Sigs 6-3.

Last but not least, there will be an important meeting for championship contenders on Tuesday, May 16. Representatives of loop winners will be decided at this meeting.

Art Exhibition Shown

An exhibition by New York architects, Kilhan and O'Conner is now on display at the Art School. The exhibition includes drawings and small scale models.

Housing for Parents Now Available

Off-campus housing for parents during Mothers' and Junior Weekend will be available until Thursday night, Chairman Carol Udy said Monday.

Reservations in Eugene homes may be made with Miss Udy at Alpha Phi. Cost will be approximately \$1.50 each night.

Sororities and Carson Hall will also be housing mothers visiting for the weekend.

ToBe'Entertainment Coming to the Side

Faithful Side-goers and interested passersby alike will be targets for a brief entertainment program planned for 4 p.m. Wednesday in the College Side, promoting Junior Weekend and the Prom.

A to-be-announced master of ceremonies will conduct a combined audience-participation show and slate of to-be-announced acts. Full details are to be announced in Wednesday's Emerald.

Emerald classifieds get results.

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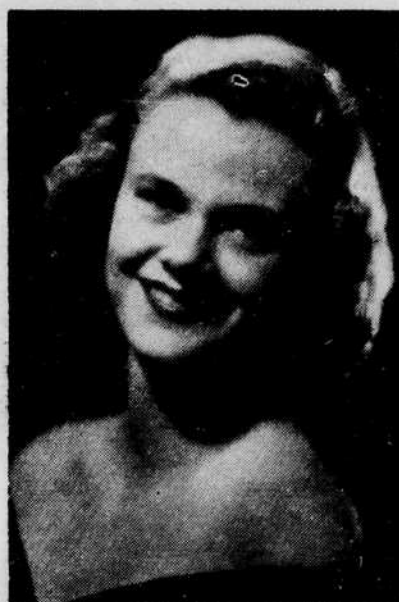
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