

DUCK TRACKS

By Al Karr

Daryle Nelson, Oregon's hard-hitting second baseman who won the Northern Division batting title in 1950 with a .441 average, is another in the long line of standout keystoneers who have played for the Webfoots.

Walt Kirsch, younger brother of baseball coach Don Kirsch, sparked at the keystone sack just a few years ago, and Don himself played for three Northern Division Oregon championship teams in 1941-42-43, winning division all-star honors twice.

Undoubtedly the greatest second baseman produced by the Webfoots was a player who never played second base for Oregon. He is Joe Gordon, who played shortstop in 1935-36, part of an excellent keystone combination along with second baseman Ray Koch.

Gordon, who excelled in baseball, as a halfback in football, and in soccer and track at Jefferson High School in Portland never turned out for football at Oregon. Nobody gives it much thought, however, for he starred in baseball and was signed by the New York Yankees in 1936, reporting to Oakland to the Pacific Coast League.

Called up to the Yanks in 1937, Gordon was converted into a second baseman by Joe McCarthy, who already had Frank Crosetti at shortstop. Joe was sent down to Newark that year, and played for a team that was to become the nucleus of future great Yank teams.

Major League Parks Just Like Howe Field

Gordon hit 26 home runs for Newark, while Charlie Keller, known for his fence-busting, hit 13. The Yanks brought him up in 1938, and it was to stay. Gordon soon established himself as one of the stars of the game. In his first three big-league years he hit 25, 28, and 30 home runs. Always a power hitter, he hit homers in a fashion reminiscent of the times that he used to powder long drives over the bank at Howe Field at a pretty consistent rate.

Joe never has compiled a gaudy batting average, but his percentages have been sound. Usually around a .280 hitter he has been a terrific clutch hitter, batting in 97, 111, 103, 87, and 103 runs in his first five major-league seasons. Gordon's top batting average was .322 in 1942, when he was voted the most valuable player in the league. Strangely enough, he compiled his lowest World Series average that year, .095 on 2 hits in 21 times at bat.

Gordon went into the army in 1944, and came out in the middle of the 1946 season. In 112 games he hit only .210 and hit 11 home runs. He had trouble with Yankee President Larry McPhail, and was traded to the Cleveland Indians for Allie Reynolds.

Joe might have been expected to feel pretty low, but actually he was tickled to death to play for the Indians. He went on to crash 29 home runs for Cleveland in 1947, only one short of his personal record, and batted in 93 runs.

Broke His Personal Records in 1948

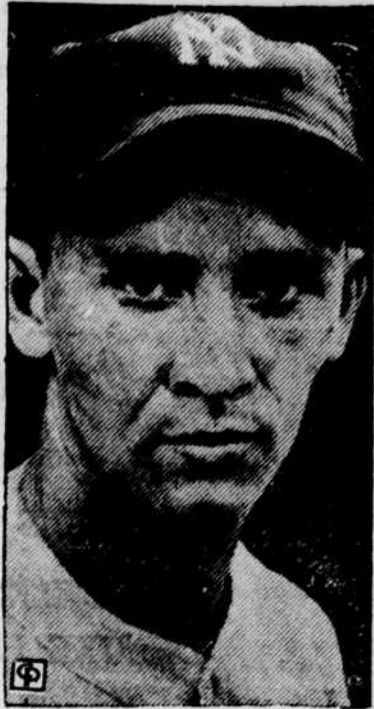
The next year Gordon had one of his greatest years, slamming 32 home runs on a .280 average and driving in 124 runs, while helping lead the Indians to their first pennant since 1920.

Gordon started to slip somewhat in 1949, and in 1950 he had a poor year, finally being replaced at second base by young Bobby Avila. His average sank low and home runs didn't come at as heavy a rate. At the end of the season he asked for his release, received it, and signed as player-manager of the Sacramento Solons of the Pacific Coast League, the loop in which Gordon broke into professional baseball.

Since the time he first played for the Webfoots Gordon has been not only a home run hitter and a clutch batter, but an exceptional fielder. His fielding prowess led to the nickname now as common as petitions at the University of Oregon—"Flash."

When he was demonstrating his exceptional ability to get the jump on a batted ball for the Indians, the remark was made that the trouble with his fielding was that there was a little section in the left field corner that Flash couldn't cover.

The 36-year old Gordon is going strong again for Sacramento. He had a batting average of .294 including Wednesday night's game, had batted in 15 runs in 16 games (still the clutch hitter), and hit three homers, two in one game. The Flash isn't through yet.



JOE GORDON
From short to second

Alpha Xi's State:

(Continued from page one)

"We wish to clarify our position regarding our political affiliation. Our action of Monday has been taken to mean that we are petitioning AGS for membership. We wish to make it clear that such was not our intent. Our action was taken in accord with an agreement among the Greek houses who are not members of AGS—the purpose of this agreement being to protect all of us against just such sudden action as our Monday vote has been interpreted to be. The agreement may be quoted as follows:

"The undersigned fraternities and sororities hereby pledge themselves not to become affiliated with... AGS until the following requirements have been met:

"To notify the steering committee of USA.

"To notify the other undersigned fraternities and sororities.

"To take no action until two regular weekly house meetings have been held subsequent to notification.

"To take no final vote until the second of the two house meetings.

"The purpose of waiting two weeks is to permit all sides to be heard; to give each of us time to fully consider the matter; and to prevent a hasty decision that might be regretted later. We believe that every girl in our group is entitled to an independent opinion. When a majority of the girls felt that our political position should be re-evaluated, we notified the proper people that such was our intent. We regret that we did

WSSF Auction Today

The World Student Service Fund's "Friday the Thirteenth" auction will take place at 4 p.m. today on Taylor's corner.

Four groups will be sold to the highest bidding houses to serve dinner tonight and to provide entertainment for the houses and their high school guests, Bill DeLand, auction chairman, stated.

Bob Zwald will auction off the groups highlighted by a trio of faculty members. Included in this group are R. A. Littman, assistant professor of psychology; E. R. Bingham, instructor in history; and E. C. Robbins, instructor in economics.

A representative group of Kwamas, sophomore women's service honorary members, will be next on the auctioneer's block. A quintet of campus beauty queens composed of Nancy Chamberlain, 1950 Junior Weekend queen; Lyn Hartley, Sweetheart of Sigma Chi; Pat Foley, Moonlight Girl of Phi Sigma Kappa; Lois Peterson,

Committee Needs Help

The All-Campus Sing committee needs people to help decorate, according to Jeanne Hoffman, co-chairman.

Those interested in helping may call Jean Burgess, 5-4391, before 4 p.m. Tuesday.

not make it clear to the Emerald that our vote was not a vote to go back to AGS, but a vote to reconsider our position."

Alpha Xi Delta

Betty Co-ed; and Charlene Hanset, Dream Girl of Pi Kappa Alpha, will comprise the third group.

Ugly Man contest finalists will be lined up together and sold as a group. These include Tom Barry, Jack Faust, Gordon Howard, Bob Peterson, Jim Loscutoff, and Jack Beyers.

All proceeds from the auction will go to the WSSF drive.

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