

Duck Tracks

By Phil Johnson

Let us uncover the true facts! Let's keep this a secret no longer! Although few individuals are aware of this noteworthy development, it is true that Oregon won a Northern Division championship last Saturday.

Coach Sid Milligan's golf squad wrapped up the ND dual meet title by routing the WSC Cougars 20-7 Saturday at Pullman. The Ducks have one more dual meet, a Saturday clash at Corvallis with the Oregon State Beavers, but a loss in that encounter would not drop Oregon out of first place.

The Webfoots also plan to enter the annual Northern Division Meet Saturday, May 19, at Seattle. Barring unforeseen developments, which have a habit of developing in golf circles, the Ducks will win the N.D. meet championship on May 19.

Seven Wins in Eight Tries

Coach Milligan has been associated with eight Oregon golf teams. Seven of them won championships. A member of the Duck golf squad in 1935, 1936, and 1937, he played a major role in the winning of two Northern Division Meet titles (1935 and 1937) and two N.D. dual meet crowns (1936 and 1937).

He acquired the coaching reins in 1947 and guided the Ducks through a fairly successful season—undefeated with seven triumphs and no losses, N.D. dual meet champions, N.D. Meet champions, fired the best score in N.D. Meet history, and placed seventeenth in the NCAA tournament.

The Ducks were led by Lou Stafford, ace Portland divoter who set a new Northern Division Meet record after completing an undefeated season in N.D. competition.

Surprisingly enough, some of Stafford's outstanding performances occurred very early in the season. In the first Duck match of the year, he fired a brilliant seven-under-par 64 to tie the Eugene Country Club course record.

The following season, 1948, was Milligan's unspeakable "Year of Horrible Tragedy"—that was the sad season in which Milligan was not associated with an N.D. championship team.

Oh, Horrible Tragedy

However, the 1948 campaign does not compare too unfavorably with those seven seasons in which Milligan contributed to Webfoot champions. Oregon won four dual meets and lost two, the Ducks placed second in the N.D. Meet, and Stafford retained his N.D. individual crown.

Second place . . . this was discouraging. Consequently, Milligan tutored his golfers to the N.D. dual meet crown in 1949. Oregon won the championship again in 1950 and repeated last Saturday for a respectable record of three titles in three years.

It is hoped that the present Duck golf squad will not be drowned in a tropical downpour of unfortunate luck similar to the flood of ill fortune which deposited the 1950 Webfoots upon the desolate sands of depressing, lugubrious tribulation.

They did win the dual meet title, but they couldn't overcome the chance advantages received by their opponents after the dual meet crown was settled.

The season began fairly satisfactorily. The Ducks dropped Oregon State 16½ to 10½, smashed Idaho 22-5, routed Washington State 19-8, ended a 10-meet College of Puget Sound winning streak by drubbing C.P.S. 20-10, blasted Washington 21½ to 5½, and slipped by the University of British Columbia 15½ to 2½.

Then the troubles began. Only one meet stood between the Duck golfers and a perfect season. Their opponents were the Oregon State Beavers, who had lost to the Ducks earlier in the season, had also lost to WSC, and had been tied by a weak Vanport squad.

Oregon should have won quite easily, but the Ducks had an "off day." The entire meet was an exceptionally unusual affair. Oregon's No. 6 man, Jim Donahue, carded a 71, which was better than the score of any of the five Ducks ranked ahead of him except that of Ron Clark, No. 1, who also shot a 71.

Ridiculous

Nevertheless, Donahue, although he fired an amazing score for a No. 6 performer, lost to his Beaver opponent, Dick Zeigler. The No. 6 Aggie walked away with a five-under-par 67, providing the margin for a shaky 14-13 OSC victory which ruined an undefeated season for the Ducks.

Oregon immediately initiated preparations for the annual ND Meet. They were highly favored, of course, but several factors intervened to relieve them of the burden of an N.D. Meet championship.

The meet unfortunately occurred on the Oregon State practice course, a layout in which practice was almost essential. The Beaver golfers were well-acquainted with the course, which the 1950 OSC Spring Sports Pressbook termed the "rolling and tricky nine-hole Corvallis Country Club course."

Each team entered four men and each man played 36 holes. The total score was used as the team score. The Beavers, well-acquainted with the course, gained a seven-stroke advantage on the first 18 holes.

Although they were seven strokes behind, the Ducks staged a determined rally on the second 18 and slowly closed the gap to the margin of one stroke. Oregon gained six but failed, by the one-stroke margin, to tie the Staters.

A one-stroke margin is insignificant. In a meet in which each team fires over 290 strokes, the margin of one stroke is smaller than an electron in an electron-compression chamber.

Saturday's Duck-Beaver clash will end the regular season for the Webfoots. An undefeated season is again at stake. The (ugh!) Corvallis Country Club course is the scene. A repeat performance by the underdog Beavers is not likely.

Two Vanport Men Head OCC Again

PORTLAND—(P)—The Oregon Collegiate Conference will be headed again by Stephen Epler of Vanport. Joe Holland, Vanport's athletic director, will continue as secretary.

The conference, which has just completed its first year, reported the elections Tuesday and also listed these actions:

Schools will not schedule games against freshman teams, but Oregon College of Education may com-

pete against Oregon and Oregon State freshman teams in basketball and baseball; Oregon Tech and Eastern Oregon were authorized 30 basketball games for next season; the one-quarter residence requirement was waived for one year.

In a soccer game at Wolverhampton, England, a bolt of lightning knocked the referee's whistle out of his mouth. The bolt landed and the landlubber bolted.

Cinder Sidelights

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closey. Neither the Ducks nor the Beavers boast terrific putters, but they are all above average. Craig, Noe, and Anderson will represent old Oregon, and any one of the three could win or be beaten by Duane Eby from Corn Valley.

Top billing in the strong men field goes to Chuck Missfeldt. Did you know that his plus 225 feet is the best in the nation for the 1951 season?

Russians To Spar

MILAN, ITALY—(P)—Soviet Russia has entered her 10 best amateur boxers in the European championships here next week, sending her picked athletes into Western competition for the fifth time since the war.

It is the first pre-Olympic test of Soviet boxing strength.

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