

Duck Tracks

By Phil Johnson

Football fans will have an opportunity to view a phenomenal new defensive setup for the first time when the Stanford Indians tangle with the Oregon Ducks Saturday at Portland.

This new arrangement, which has never been seen on a college gridiron (according to reliable authorities), will be employed by the Southerners when the Ducks have pigskin possession.

Apparently, Indian Head Coach Chuck Taylor has been engaged in contemplative thought during the summer months, for his unorthodox 6-3-2-1 defense has definite possibilities. It is deadly against passes, airtight against line smashes, and potent against end runs. Pitchouts will be suicidal against this iron defense. It doesn't seem to have a weakness.

Stanford possibly intended to spring this unusual set-up by surprise, for it was unknown to the journalistic world until an Emerald sports writer discovered it in an official Stanford press release.

Deadly Defense

According to the publicity blast, the six defensive linemen will be the two ends, two tackles, and two guards. The three secondaries are listed as the left linebacker, middle linebacker, and the right linebacker. The tertiaries are the left and right halfbacks, and the quaternary (fourth line of defense) will be the safety man.

There it is—6-3-2-1. This defense is capable of tossing a monkey wrench into the plans of any gridiron master. Even the famous Knute Rockne would have been disconcerted by this one.

Despite their plan to use to 12-man defense, the Indians apparently intend to meet Oregon on even terms when Stanford has the ball, since the Indian offensive lineup is limited to the more-orthodox 11-man lay-out. Maybe the T formation doesn't work so successfully with 12 men. The more men there are, the more chances exist that one of them will forget the play.

If the officials limit Stanford's defensive squad to an uneven 11, it is likely that Coach Taylor will drop one of the linebackers, switching to a 6-2-2-1.

Linebackers, incidentally, are key men in any defensive set-up. It is expected that most running plays, notably those involving two-on-one line blocking, traps, or cross-blocking, will result in the progress of the runner through the line. The linebacker is the man who must stop him. If he fails, the play goes for sizable yardage.

Duck Prospects

Coach Len Casanova's prospective linebackers include Dick Patrick, Ron Pheister, Mike Popovich, and Jim Slover. Patrick, a two-year letterman senior, saw 276 minutes of action in 1949 and 322 minutes last fall. He should be one of the standouts on Coach Len Casanova's 1951 Duck machine.

Pheister, a freshman, was an all-city center on Grant High's 1950 state championship eleven. Popovich, 201-pound senior, saw only 26 minutes of action in 1950, but he might see more action this season. He also is a sprinter on Coach John Borchardt's Webfoot swimming squad.

Slover, an ex-Marshfield High football and basketball regular, also played in the 1951 Portland Shrine All-Star game. He's a freshman.

Oregon's runners will have many opportunities to meet the Indian linebackers, Gordy Rice (left linebackers), Hart Cook (middle boy), and Ted Tannef (on the right side in the Stanford 6-3-2-1.

Rice saw 199 minutes of action in 1949 but missed most of the 1950 season with a broken leg. He's a 193-pounder from San Mateo.

Cook, one of two 4-F lads on the Stanford roster, doesn't demonstrate any 4-F tendencies when he plays football. Stanford publicity men praise his "poise."

Taylor-Fit Teams

If Stanford loses Saturday afternoon, that will be a new experience for Coach Taylor. His football squads have never lost a game.

He has been head coach of three teams, the 1947, 1948 and 1949 Indian Frosh elevens. They won 14 games, tied one, and lost the aforesaid none.

The 31-year old Taylor, an All-Coast guard for Stanford's 1941 Rose Bowl team, has been something of a utility man in the Stanford coaching staff.

Stanford needed a wrestling coach in 1947, so Taylor took over. Later, they need a rugby mentor. Taylor knew nothing about the game, but he was the man. Still later, he was placed in charge of the Stanford intramural program.

Jayvee Eleven Schedule Ready

Oregon's first junior varsity football team since 1946 will play a five-game schedule this fall. There will be no freshman squad.

Any football player in any class will be eligible for junior varsity action. Players can be moved freely from the varsity to the jayvee eleven and back to the varsity. Bill Bowerman will coach the Jayvees.

Junior Varsity schedule:

Oct. 6—Portland Air Force Base at Eugene.

Oct. 19 Oregon State JV's at Eugene.

Oct. 27 Humbolt State at Eureka.

Nov. 9 Willamette JV's at Salem.

Nov. 17 Oregon State JV's at Corvallis.

Oregon's football squad has only 15 lettermen returning from the 1950 season.

Only nine of the candidates for the 1951 Duck varsity grid squad were seniors.

Candidates for the Oregon Duck varsity when practice began in September included 15 athletics who participated in the Portland Shrine game.

Duck Fullback Tom Novikoff twice was awarded All-American junior college honors.

Bill Bates, 215-pound Duck

tackle, starred at East Mississippi Junior College during the 1950 season, playing under the coaching of Bob Sullivan, former Oregon assistant coach.

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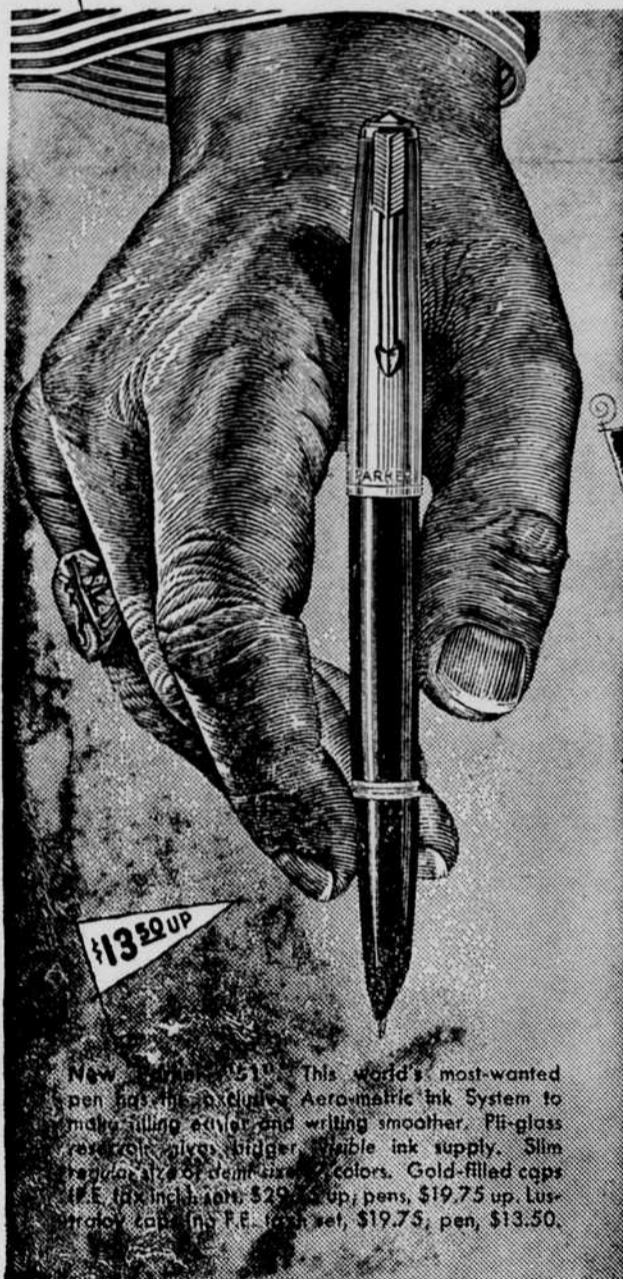
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