

Duck Tracks

By Phil Johnson

A football takes a funny bounce. Ask Jim Aiken.

Aiken left Nevada in 1947 and soon found himself in charge of a team which was probably the finest in Oregon collegiate history, a team which captured the co-championship of the Pacific Coast Conference.

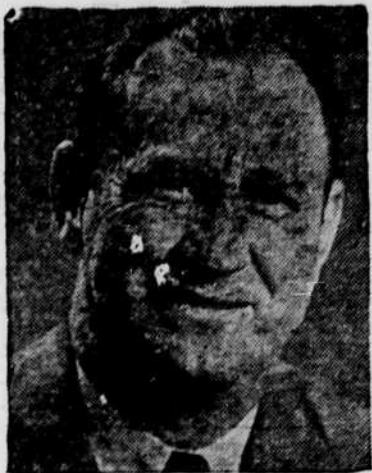
Two years later, Aiken was coaching a squad with the poorest win-loss record in Duck history. Having explored the heights, he was now viewing the depths.

When Aiken came to Eugene four years ago, it was generally believed that he would follow the usual pattern expected of new coaches—one or two lean "building" years unpunctuated by phenomenal successes—and then some outstanding seasons with few losses.

However, Aiken didn't follow tradition—he started out with a roar, enjoyed two fine seasons, and then shifted to the aforementioned depths-exploratory activities.

Setup Not A Setup

Coach Len Casanova arrives just four years after Genial Jim bounced in from Nevada. Both men moved into difficult situations. When Aiken arrived, Eugene Register-Guard Editor William Tugman wrote, "No Oregon coach ever faced a tougher setup." Those words might be applicable to Casanova today.



JIM AIKEN

Aiken remarked, "There's one thing about Oregon—when a team gets as low as that one was, there are only two things it can do—turn over sideways, or come up. We intend to come up."

He pointed out that the Ducks didn't score a single point during their last four games before he arrived—"So the first point we make will better the record."

Casanova doesn't have this consolation, but his first season with more than one victory will better the 1950 Webfoot mark. It is generally accepted that the Ducks will capture more than one win this fall. They might win five or six. They could win all ten, although that would be something of a surprise.

Although the popular Casanova enjoyed a fair degree of job-security at Pittsburgh, the former Santa Clara head man's decision to come to Eugene was not too surprising, since his first season at the Panther institution was not characterized by events which tend to leave fans and alumni ecstatically joyous.

Aiken Surprizes

Aiken's move to Eugene, however, was quite surprising. His last Nevada squad, which had won seven games while losing two, was the leading passing aggregation among the nation's major college elevens and ranked third in total offense. (During more recent years, until the Wolfpack school abandoned football during the summer, Nevada hasn't always had such a strong offense on the gridiron, but their player-subsidization tactics have been quite offensive.)

Had Aiken stayed at Reno, he would have faced easy schedules with the material that carried Nevada to two outstanding seasons in 1947 and 1948. But who wants to stay at Reno?

Aiken left Nevada, where he was as secure as a dollar bill in a Scotchman's pocketbook, and accepted a new position at Oregon, which hadn't scored a point in four games. Obviously, he possessed a great degree of self-confidence. He expected to lift the Ducks from the depths, and he did—temporarily.

Aiken had his own theories about alumni who fail to appreciate losing football seasons. He told Register-Guard Sports Editor Dick Strite, "Whenever I run into a wild-eyed alum who lost maybe two bucks on the game, and he shakes his fist and yells 'I'm going to get your job,' I just say, 'Brother, you can have it.'"

Four years have passed. Jim is now in the lumber business. Those four seasons were odd ones. Every one of them packed with surprises:

1947—Ducks lose three out of four, but then suddenly run wild for six straight victories and a tie for second place in the Pacific Coast Conference.

1948—A great year. Ducks tie for first place in the PCC, play in the Cotton Bowl. Fifteen wins in sixteen games over a two-year period.

1949—With many stars returning from the 1948 eleven, Ducks win four of five games, then lose five in a row.

1950—Poorest win-loss record in Duck history. Fourteen losses in fifteen games over a two-year period.

Athletics Drop Yanks, Brooklyn Also Wins

NEW YORK (UP)—The Brooklyn Dodgers brought their dizzy skid to a halt with a resounding 15-5 victory over the Boston Braves yesterday but the New York Yankees dropped a 4-1 decision to the Philadelphia Athletics.

As a result, the pennant races shaped up as follows:

The Dodgers lead the New York Giants by one and a half games. Any combination of Doger victories and Giant defeats totaling League pennant for them. The Dodgers had four games to play while the Giants had three, including one with the Phillies last night. A Giant victory last night would again cut Brooklyn's lead to one game.

Yanks Need Two

In the American League, the Yankees now lead the Cleveland Indians by only 2½ games but must win only two of their remaining five games to clinch. The Indians were idle last night.

The Dodgers, bouncing back from their double defeat at the hands of the Braves, routed Max Surkont in the first inning and went on to pile up 14 hits. They scored all their runs in three innings with four-run bursts in the first and fifth and a seven-run uprising in the eighth.

Roy Campanella led the Brooklyn assault on six pitchers by knocking in five runs. He doubled home three runs in the first inning, singled in two more in the fifth and also contributed a single to the seven-run inning.

Don Newcombe moved somewhat shakily to his 19th victory of the season behind the assault. He was touched for three runs in the fifth, after the Dodgers had given him an eight-run cushion.

Shantz Wins

Bobby Shantz, five-foot, seven-

inch, 145-pound left-hander, turned in a neat six-hitter as the Athletics upset the Yankees

The Athletics made 10 hits but their scoring was produced entirely by three home runs. Ferris Fain, American League batting leader, hit one off starter Bob Kuzava in the first inning. Gus Zernial hit his 33rd of the season with one on off Kuzava in the third and Dave Philley hit another with none on off reliever Johnny Sain in the same inning.

The Yankees scored their only run in the first inning when Mickey Mantle reached second on third-baseman Billy Hitchcock's error and scored on Hank Bauer's single.

The Giants and Phillies were the only National League teams scheduled last night while Boston was at Washington and Detroit at St. Louis in American League night games.

League Teams Play At SU Next Week

A bowling tournament similar to the one held fall term of last year will take place in the Student Union recreation area sometime next week.

The tournament will again be divided into three leagues. The fraternity league will play on Tuesday nights and the dormitory league on Wednesday and Thursday nights. All halls or houses which have teams may check with the SU recreation desk.

Special house prizes will be awarded to the winners of this tournament, which is open to all members of the University family.

Prizes for men will be:

5 free lines weekly for high game—league or open play.

250 or better game (league play only)—gold medal.

275 or better game (league play only)—gold medal and new bowling ball.

300 game in open play—silver medal, new ball and bag.

300 game (league play only)—trophy, new ball, bag, and

(Please turn to page seven)

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IM Managers Meet Friday in PE Building

All intramural managers should attend the meeting scheduled for 4 p.m. Friday in the Intramural office of the Physical Education building. Every organization intending to enter a touch football or volleyball team in the IM fall program should have an IM manager.

Touch football officials are still needed by the IM department. Standard university wages will be paid.

Touch football schedules are now being mailed to participating organizations. The season will open Monday afternoon.

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