

Duck Tracks

By **Bill Gurney**
Emerald Sports Editor

In football, the platoon system is an innovation which has come into existence only since the war, but in Northern Division basketball circles it is old stuff, and has been a feature of action in this league ever since Jack Friel took the reins at Washington State College.

And that is a rather long time, Friel took the job way back in 1928, just five years after his graduation from Washington State. Incidentally, he took his degree in business administration and not physical education.

Friel Has Good Record

And now, 24 seasons later, Friel is recognized as the dean of Pacific Coast Conference coaches. This record, in a business where the occupational security is about as good as that of the proverbial snowball, is nothing short of sensational.

Part of it, no doubt, can be attributed to the fact that he has won a good share of his games. In 1937, he piloted his platoon to a Northern Division hoop title. But Stanford, sparked by the great Hank Luisetti, a player who goes on many all-time All-American teams, defeated the men from the Palouse hills for the PCC crown.

In 1941, Friel's club again won the ND crown, but this time exacted revenge on Stanford by topping them for the Pacific Coast title. They later went on to win the national "Western Championships", but lost in the finals for the national championship to Wisconsin.

Lost to Bruins

In 1949 the Cougars traveled to Los Angeles another Northern Division title under their belts, but lost out again to the UCLA Bruins this time, in a close contest.

Last year Friel did not turn out a championship team, but the Cougars did finish third in the Division with a seven-nine record.

This is a good record for 24 years coaching, but at some win-at-all-cost schools, the high pressure of the alumni wolves and clamor for teams which won them all, or nearly all, would have removed Friel long before this. But he has won the respect and admiration of the Palouse school; he is something of an institution there, in fact, and like old man river, he just keeps rolling along.

Surprisingly enough after 24 years in one of the most nerve wracking businesses in existence, Friel looks younger than his years and is a very trim figure as he guides his Cougars from the bench.

Platoon System Distinctive

He is noted for the number of successful high school mentors who have played for him, and also for All-American hoop stars who won their laurels while performing for him. Among the All-Americans are such athletes as Gail Bishop, six-foot, eight-inch center Vince Hanson, Paul Lindeman, and Ray Sundquist.

Perhaps the most distinctive feature of Friel's system of coaching is the aforementioned platoon system. This, of course, means that he very seldom substitutes anything less than full units of five men.

Advantages of this of course would stem from much the same facts that have enabled the football platoon system to speed up that game immeasurably. However, the maple court counterpart of this has not been quite so widely accepted. One advantage would be having a crew of "shook troops" to throw in to rest tired first-stringers, and take the brunt of rugged backboard action. Also there is the consideration that when the units are kept separate, you have a natural feeling of rivalry and teamwork which would not be present if substitutions were made individually.

At any rate, you can expect to see the system in action tonight in McArthur Court, when the veteran Friel matches wits against Oregon's Bill Borchert, who will be coaching his very first Northern Division contest.

Consensus of ND Coaches

Speaking of the Northern Division again, we see that the Eugene Register-Guard Sports Editor Dick Strite has a very informative article on the prospects of the various schools this year.

He wrote the conference coaches and obtained the following consensus from them: All four (they didn't rate their own teams) picked Washington first. All except Tippy Dye picked Idaho second, while the other three, OSC, WSC, and Oregon, were about even in choices. Which indicates that the coaches think it will be a dog fight between these for third place.

Religious Conclave Planned Here

A Parliament of World Religions which will feature representatives of Buddhism, Confucianism, Taoism, Judaism, Islam, and Christianity (including Roman Catholic, Greek Orthodox, and Protestant) will be held on the campus Jan. 20 through Jan. 24.

The parliament will be held this year in place of the annual Religious Evaluation Week and is designed to give students a broader view of the religious beliefs and activities of the world.

Believed to be unique in its concept, the Parliament is being sponsored on the campus by the Religious and Spiritual Activities committee, the Far Eastern Studies committee, the University Religious council and the Religious Directors association.

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