

Duck Tracks

By Bill Gurney
Emerald Sports Editor

The headlines were about four inches high, and as big as you ever saw in a newspaper. The big letters spelled out one word—Oregon. The paper was the Oregon Daily Emerald, and the day was Tuesday, March 28, 1939.

For that was the day after the night which was perhaps the all-time peak of athletics at Oregon; at least in the sport of basketball.

The headlines were there for a good reason, for Howard Hobson's famous "Tall Firs" had just won the first recognized NCAA basketball championship by defeating Ohio State, 46-33.

The stars of that team were the whole first five, including incomparable Laddie Gale, who won the Northern Division scoring championship three times, and John Dick at forwards; Slim Wintermute at center, and Bobby Anet and Wally Johansen at guards.

Wintermute Was Tops

And Howard Hobson picked them as his Northern Division all-star team hands down. We quote from a Duck Tracks column written by Elbert Hawkins in that same issue of the Emerald:

"Who could find a better pair of guards than those driving Astorians, the inseparable Wally Johansen and Bobby Anet, who have been playing side by side for 12 years? Is there a center anywhere you'd rather have either offensively or defensively than Slim Wintermute?"

"Or how could you top the offensive front trio of Slim, and forwards Laddie Gale and John Dick who in their four games previous to last night's Ohio State debacle (against California twice and then Texas and Oklahoma) rolled in 144 points?"

"That amounts to 36 points per game for the trio, 12 per man against three of the west's most potent outfits."

Hawkins Had a Point

Apparently in 1939 the average score didn't reach quite the astronomic proportions which it does now, but still brother Hawkins had a point; he had a point indeed.

The story of the game, which was written by George Passero, then Emerald Sports Editor, and now a sportswriter for the Oregon Journal in Portland, relates how Johansen and Anet, after playing for Astoria high school together, came to Oregon and teamed up with Laddie Gale on the frosh squad.

That frosh aggregation was coached by John Warren, who had coached the combination of Anet and Johansen in high school, in the days when state basketball champions at Astoria were the ordinary thing, and to be expected, like rain in the winter.

And when the two ex-Fishermen came to Oregon they carried their hoop magic with them, for the 1936 frosh team won 19 games and lost only one.

Laddie Gale Helped a Little

Of course they probably had a little help from aforesaid Laddie Gale, who was from Oakridge himself, and had been a unanimous all-state choice in high school.

As sophomores they became "vow boys", and were determined to reach the top in basketball. They were joined this year by Wintermute, who had been ineligible his freshman year, but had been a star at Longview, Wash., high school.

This "Big Four," of destiny were aided by Dave Silvers and Captain Johnny Lewis, now coach at Willamette University, as they battled to a three-way tie in the Northern Division, only to lose out in the playoffs.

In 1938 as juniors, the "Big Four" teamed with Silver to take an undisputed ND crown, but had the misfortune to run into a great Stanford team led by one of the most talented hoopsters ever to don a jersey. Hank Luisetti was his name, and he could do no wrong, especially at the gentle art of depositing the ball in the net. Oregon lost the coast playoffs in two straight games.

Senior Year Big One

So finally it was 1939 and the senior year for the crew who were to write their names indelibly on Duck basketball history-books.

There was no stopping them as they set their sights for the top. They traveled from New York to San Francisco and back again to Chicago, playing the best teams in the nation and losing only five games out of 34.

ATO, Minturn, Phi Delts, Nestor Take 'B' Intramural Hoop Games

By Lauren Loveland

The "B" squads took over the intramural basketball courts Tuesday afternoon to fight for the glory of their living organizations. The Alpha Tau Omega squad took a 27 to 13 victory from Sigma Alpha Mu, Sherry Ross edged Campbell Club in a close one, 19 to 17, Phi Delta Theta downed Theta Chi 24 to 13, Nestor beat Sederstrom Hall 21 to 16, Minturn continued their winning ways with a victory over Gamma 41 to 24, and Stan Ray Hall trounced McChesney Hall 34 to 13.

Comedy Yet

There was even a touch of comedy in one of the games. It was the last game to be played and the ATO quintet was having a fairly easy time with opponent, the Sammies. About thirty seconds before the final horn, the ATO squad had a lead of 27 to 10.

It was at this point that the ATO "shock" squad took the floor. They were able to score two quick points on a wonderfully-executed play that faked the entire defensive team out of position. Unfortunately one of the shock troops in his eagerness to make good, had pushed the ball through the opposing team's basket.

Although the ATO men were undismayed, they were not able to score again during the final seconds of the contest. The Sammies, however, added another tally on one of the free throws awarded them because of the numerous fouls called on the ATO's.

Brethauer Gets Six

Monte Brethauer showed some fine work under the board for ATO as well as being the top scorer of the game with seven. Stan Gefen was next with six for Sigma Alpha Mu.

Minturn's "B" squad continued the winning ways of their "A" team with a convincing 41 to 24 win over Gamma Hall's "B" team. Orlando Mathias took the top scoring honors for Minturn with 15 for the game but he played second fiddle to Gamma's Dick Du Bosch who finished with 12 to his credit. As you will notice, Du Bosch's 12 points are exactly half of his team's total.

In one of the more tightly fought battles of the afternoon, Sherry Ross Hall edged by Campbell Club 19 to 17. This was one of the closest games of the year and also of the better-played games. The scoring was very evenly divided, among the men as well as between the teams. Sumner Weed of Sherry Ross and Elmer Jones of Campbell Club tied for scoring honors with seven apiece.

Stan Ray Wins

In a game of the opposite type, Stan Ray Hall emerged the victor (Please turn to page eight)

Today's IM Schedule

BASKETBALL

Wednesday, Jan. 16:
3:50 Court 40, Sigma Nu B vs. Phi Gamma Delta B.
3:50 Court 43, Kappa Sigma B vs. Phi Sigma Kappa B.
4:35, Court 40 Hunter Hall B vs. Cherney Hall B.
4:35 Court 43 Phi Delta Theta A vs. Sigma Alpha Epsilon A.
5:15 Court 40 Phi Kappa Phi A vs. Theta Chi A.
5:15 Court 43 Phi Gamma Delta A vs. Tau Kappa Epsilon A.

HANDBALL

Hunter Hall vs. Kappa Sigma.



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