

Duck Tracks

By John Whitty

With the advent of better weather (?) and the lengthening of the days, a young man's or woman's fancy turns to spring sports, especially baseball. Consequently, Oregon's baseball coach, Don Kirsch, has already been conducting workouts for his 1952 varsity and junior varsity prospects.

The workouts are being held in the unfinished area of the men's physical education building, three days every week. As yet there has been no work on anything except pitching and hitting, with some emphasis on general conditioning.

With the start of organized full-scale practice on March 3, Coach Kirsch will begin looking over the candidates for the starting nine. The first game is scheduled for Monday, March 24, against Stanford on the Indian's home diamond.

Barnstorm Trip Set for Basketball Team

The Stanford game is the first in a series of three contests to be played that week by the diamond squad against California teams. The other two games are with California on March 25, and San Jose State on March 27. All of the tilts are to be played while the Ducks are touring Southern California.

According to Kirsch, he knows of no other Northern Division baseball team which has ever tried a barnstorming trip of this sort before. The results of the jaunt will be interesting, but perhaps not too satisfactory to the Oregon fans, since the games will be the first of the season for the Webfoots.

The baseball mentor also expressed his satisfaction with the new batting net, the first one which has ever been used by an Oregon nine. The net hangs from the ceiling of the unfinished area and divides it into two lanes about 15 feet wide, in which are the pitcher, catcher and a hitter.

The advantages of the net are two-fold. First, it nearly triples the amount of pre-season hitting which is possible. Secondly, the pitching staff has the opportunity of throwing to batters from the start of the season, rather than being forced to merely warm up with a catcher for the first six weeks of practice.

Kirsch Says Beavers Favored

Kirsch says that the hitting of the team is the phase of the game which requires the most practice to perfect, and that after he is satisfied with the batting performance, he will still have plenty of time to drill his charges on fielding and base-running, as well as correcting the weaknesses of his mound staff.

In reference to the Northern Division race this year, Kirsch stated that Oregon State would probably be picked to win the title, but that the Beavers will receive stiff competition from both Washington and Washington State.

The Beavers won the conference championship last year, and their club is almost intact, since they lost only two regulars from the '51 team. Gene Tanselli, outstanding shortstop for coach Ralph Coleman's nine last year was lost by graduation, as was first baseman Don Taylor.

In speaking of this year's Oregon team, Kirsch indicated that the team will be strong in some places and weak in others. The pitching will be uncertain, since a large part of the mound staff will be composed of freshmen and sophomores.

With the loss of starting catcher Jack Smith to the Pittsburgh Pirates professional baseball team last summer, the chores behind the plate will be taken care of by five men, letterman Joe Segura and Norval Ritchey, sophomore Don Hedgepeth, and freshmen Ron Bottler and Neal Marlett.

Prospects for 1952 Duck Nine

The outfield is strong. Leading the fly-chasers will be Earl Averill, ND batting champ last year. Earl made the All-Coast team, as well as gaining All-American honors for his prowess. Also returning will be returning outfielders Lee Alvord and Duane Owens.

In the infield, Kirsch, has 1950 ND bat champ Daryle Nelson to hold down the keystone sack, letterman Phil Settecase at first base, and Nick Schmer, a one-year letter-winner, for the third base position. Nelson also was an All-Coast selection last year.

A number of freshmen have already turned out for the team, among them George Shaw, football letter-winner, Norman Forbes, a pitcher from Victoria, B.C., and Pete Williams, an all-state shortstop from the state champion Grant high school team of last season.

When asked to give his opinion on the college ball players who leave school for professional baseball, Kirsch replied that he believed that they were making a mistake. He pointed out that boys whose experience previous to college ball has been confined to summer play around the state would be competing against other prospects from climates where baseball is played the year round, and their consequent lack of experience would hurt their chances in professional baseball.

Ex-Portland High Schooler Provides UO with Depth

By Martin Meadows

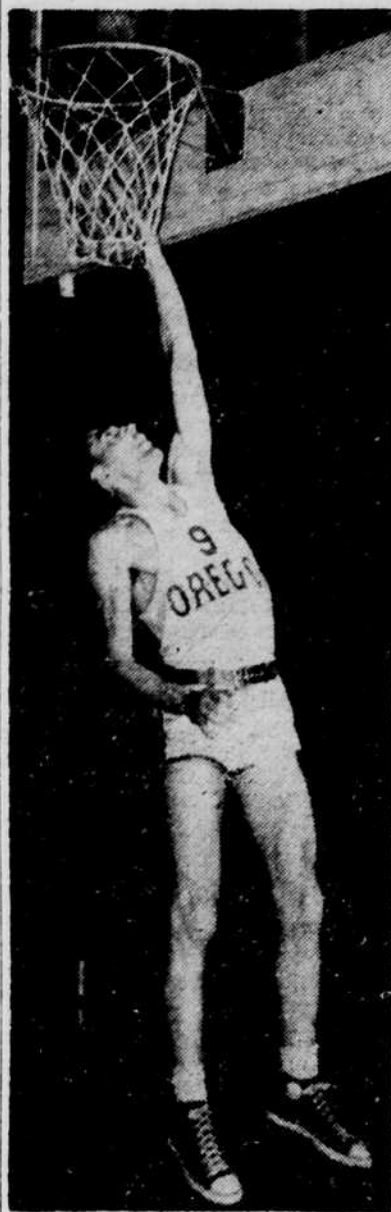
One of only three seniors on the Oregon basketball squad, Jim Vranizan is winding up his hoop career, seeking his third block "O" award as a member of the Webfoot team.

Although the 6' 4" business administration major graduated from Central Catholic high school of Portland in 1946, he did not enroll at Oregon until 1948, due to an 18-month hitch he served in Uncle Sam's army.

While in the service Jim was stationed in Japan for eight months. He performed for the Fort Ord hoop team which finished second in the Sixth Army's district tournament. Vranizan earned the most valuable player award for the playoffs.

In high school Jim spent three years on the varsity and led his team to the state tournament in 1946. It was during that same season that he established what was then a new scoring for Central.

Jim's other major sports interest is skiing. In 1946 he helped win the Dartmouth trophy for Central.



JIM VRANIZAN

this award is given annually to the top high school ski team in Oregon.

The lanky senior participated in tennis while in high school, and also is a fair golfer, generally shooting in the low 80's.

During his three years on the Webfoot varsity Jim has provided much-needed reserve strength with his height and ability on the backboards. He doesn't score much, but he makes up for this with his defensive talent.

Bowling . . .

Sigma Alpha Mu won three points from Phi Kappa Sigma.

Beta Theta Pi won four points from Kappa Sigma.

Pi Kappa Alpha won three points from French hall.

High scorers: game—Dick Patrick, 213. Series: Patrick, 502, Ken Ireland, 528.

Cherney hall won four points from Phi Kappa Psi.

High scorers: game—Bob Richardson, 203. Series: Bill Bauer, 512.

SPORTS STAFF

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Kircher Favors Roses; But Not WSC in '52

PORTLAND, Ore. (U.P.)—Al Kircher, new head football coach at Washington State College, says he's all in favor of the Rose Bowl but he doesn't know yet whether his highly-touted 1952 Cougar grid machine will make it.

"We have an awfully tough schedule," Kircher told WSC alumni here yesterday, "Ten tough ball games, with only one open date. How anyone can put is Pasadena with such a rugged job ahead is more than I can see."

The Cougars go all-out for the bigtime this year, tackling Southern California, Stanford, Baylor, Ohio State, Oregon State, Oregon, Idaho, California, Oklahoma A&M and Washington in order.

Kircher and his chief aide, Dan Snavelly, moved on to Vancouver, Wash., for another session with supporters.



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