

Duck Tracks

By John Whitty

In just three short weeks, Eugene will be the scene of the 34th annual Oregon State High School Basketball Tournament. The games will be played on McArthur Court, beginning Tuesday night, March 18, and concluding on Saturday, March 22.

This event, which is recognized by sports fans throughout the state as the greatest single attraction in the sporting year, was originated here at University of Oregon in 1919. The first state tourney saw only eight teams competing, as compared to sixteen in the modern version of the playoffs.

Under the direction of Dean Walker, Oregon athletic director at that time, the contests were played in the Men's Gym here on the campus. Lincoln high school became Oregon's first official state basketball champion when they defeated Salem in the finals by a score of 27-14.

In 1920, the tournament was moved to Willamette University at Salem, where it was conducted by the late R. L. "Matty" Mathews. The tourney stayed at the capital city for 26 years, returning to Eugene after World War II. During that time, Salem, the perennial host team, captured first place on six occasions.

"Nine Boy Wonders"

In 1932, the number of contenders was increased to sixteen schools, four of which were "B" schools. In 1937, little Bellfountain high school, with only nine boys enrolled, became the only "B" school ever to win the state title. Three men from Bellfountain made the all-state team, two on the first squad and one on the second contingent.

During the war, only 12 teams participated in the playoffs, but in 1946, the number was again raised to sixteen, and a year later the five day spectacle was returned to the University of Oregon, where it has been held ever since.

In last year's tournament, Jefferson high school of Portland defeated Klamath Falls in a high-scoring game to seize the crown. The score of the contest, 66-56, set a new record for high score in a final game, breaking the old record set in 1949 by state champ Roosevelt and runner-up Marshfield at 62-50 for a 112 point total.

This Year's Parings

For the information of those University of Oregon students who will find some time during final week to see a few of the games, the first round pairings in the tourney are as follows.

Upper Bracket: Dist. 9 (Hillsboro) vs. Dist. 10 (Astoria); Dist. 8 (McMinneville) vs. Dist. 15 (Cleveland or Lincoln); Dist. 5 (Marshfield) vs. Dist. 14 (Scapoose); Dist. 2 (The Dalles or Pendleton) vs. Dist. 13 (Central Catholic).

Lower Bracket: Dist. 3 (Bend) vs. Dist. 4 (Medford); Dist. 16 (Cleveland or Lincoln) vs. Dist. 11 (Salem); Dist. 6 (Eugene) vs. Dist. 7 (Corvallis or Albany); Dist. 1 (La Grande) vs. Dist. 12 (Oregon City, Milwaukie, or West Linn).

The teams in parentheses following the number of each district are those which are favored to win in each of their respective districts. Cleveland and Lincoln of Portland have already established themselves as the representatives from districts 15 and 16, but it has not been decided which school shall represent which district.

Of these teams listed above, nine are listed among the first ten cage squads in the state by Associated Press poll. Central Catholic has been rated first in the state for the past five weeks by the poll. It is closely followed by two other Portland fives, Lincoln and Cleveland in that order.

Marshfield Will Be Tough

Marshfield, the state tournament perennial contender, is listed fourth in the state by the poll to lead the downstate schools. McMinneville, the early leader in the weekly voting, has established itself in fifth place. Medford, favored to win in district 4 resides in sixth place in the poll, followed by Klamath Falls, the other contender in that district.

La Grande, who will probably represent district 1 in the tournament, occupies eight place, and Oregon City and Salem round out the first ten in the poll.

Using the ratings of the poll as a basis, it would appear that Central Catholic will be the next state champion. However, a careful observer would note that Central runs up against Marshfield, always a hard team to beat at the tournament, in the second round of play, considering that both squads reach the tourney and win their first tilts.

Marshfield is the only team in the state which has beaten Central Catholic this year, and although the Rams won the other game, the boys from Coos Bay will know what to expect if the two teams meet.

Anyway it turns out, the 50,000 or so fans who attend the 1952 state tournament know that they will be in for a lot of basketball, and good basketball at that.

Oregon Captain Nears Cage Wind-up

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at Marshfield High school, Ken helped his teams compile an amazing record at the state tournament. The Pirate squads attended the playoffs all three years that Hunt played for them. In 1947 they captured first place and wound up third in 1948. Ken was picked on the second-string All-State crew in 1947 and was on the first string the following year.

While in high school the six-foot PE major also participated in football, in which sport he put in two years at the quarterback and left half positions, and in track, in which he threw the javelin.

As a freshman Ken demonstrated his potential by leading the team in scoring as the Yearlings copped 16 out of 20 games.

All season Hunt has been the main cog of the Webfoot attack which utilizes the fast-breaking methods of Borchert, and as such he has sparked the team with his

speed and clutch-playing ability. In addition to leading in the scoring column, Ken also paces the Ducks in total assists.

Hunt's sparkling floor play has been one of the brightest spots in an otherwise mediocre season, and the heads-up performances of the flashy guard definitely will be missed next season.

Phi Delt's Win

(Continued from page four)
40 yard dash: Briot, Sigma Nu; Wilcox, Phi Delt; Manshardt, Phi Delt. Time: 4.6 sec.
Relay: Phi Delta Theta. Time: 15.2 seconds.

1/4 mile run: Mundle, Phi Delt; Hepfner, Sigma Nu; Gent, Sigma Nu. Time: 3:41.0.

Thus far in this year's intramural standings, Minturn hall is still holding the wide margin that it grabbed during Fall term.

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