

# Duck Tracks

By Bill Gurney  
Emerald Sports Editor

'Tis spring, we said to ourselves while trudging manfully through the rain. People will want to know about baseball. For one thing, the home season opens today, weather permitting. It's Oregon versus the Linfield Wildcats in a double-header, and here's hoping Oregon fattens up the pre-season record.

Against the Bears of California and the Indians of Stanford and the Fresno State team and the San Jose State Spartans the Oregon baseball team was something less than a junior edition of the New York Yankees.

The five-game barnstorming tour of the bay area ended with four losses against a lone Duck victory. But the weather was terrific, we hear.

Talking to Mentor Don Kirsch about the trip, we drew these comments:

## Good Experience, Anyway

"It was certainly good experience and we played some good teams. Our hitting stacked up well, but our pitching was spotty. None of our pitchers did consistently well."

However, he mentioned that portsider Don Seigmund, up from last year's frosh outfit, turned in five innings of shutout baseball against San Jose State. And veteran righthander Stan Aune added six more against the same team, gaining credit for the only victory.

Freshman hurler Norm Forbes was termed "promising," although he was the victim of a ninth-inning barrage of base hits by California.

## Shaw is "Definite Starter"

Leading the Duck hit parade was George Shaw, who is a "definite starter" in centerfield. Shaw also has the best arm among the outfielders, according to Kirsch.

Another freshman who seems to be virtually set as a regular is Ron Bottler, catcher. Bottler hit .286 and batted in five runs on the trip.

Sparkplug of the infield is again dynamic Daryle Nelson, all-division second baseman. The chunky keystone guardian led the club with 11 runs batted in, and hit a tolerable .500. Shaw led the hitters with a .550 mark.

At shortstop, Freshman Pete Williams, ex-all stater from Portland's Grant high, was termed by Kirsch as "coming along." Shortstop is not an easy position to play, and Williams did well considering his lack of varsity experience.

The first base spot is still wide open, according to Kirsch. Phil Settecase, captain-elect of the Ducks, has been a case of good-field, no-hit, as he owns the anemic batting mark of .133 with two hits in 15 tries.

Third base is also in doubt. Nick Schmer is last year's regular, but may have competition from Sophomore Ron Phillips and Junior Earl Averill, both presiously outfielders.

## Averill Made All-America Team

In Averill, incidentally, Kirsch has a boy who was named to the 1951 college baseball coaches' all-American team. As an outfielder last season, Averill won the division batting crown with a .410 mark, and at times flashed power reminiscent of his major leager father, Earl Sr., who cavorted for the Cleveland Indians as an outfielder in the 1930's. However, Earl Jr. is off to a slow start this season, with three hits in 12 trips and .250, and has been alternating in right field with Joe Sugura.

Both Sugura and Averill are also catching prospects, and left-fielder Norval Ritchey is another candidate for part-time duty behind the bat. Alternating with Ritchey in the outfield has been Jim Livesay, a junior who is usually a potent hitter, but who has managed only one safe blow in ten trips to the plate thus far.

As can be seen, one thing Oregon has is catching. Bottler, Ritchey, Sugura, and Averill are all capable of filling the backstop post, and the latter three are useful in the outfield.

## Seigmund Owns Top ERA

Among the pitchers, Seigmund has been most effective to date, with an earned run average of 1.747 in 10 1-3 innings. Next best ERA mark is that of Forbes, who has 6.750 for eight and two thirds innings. Sophomore Bill Bottler, a righthander and the other half of the Oregon "brother battery," is next with a 6.75 mark for eight frames. Although he has credit for the only victory, Stan Aune has an 8.00 ERA for nine innings.

At this time we should like to enter a request for sunshine starting at 1:30 p.m. today. It is always very anti-climatic to the grand old American opening day tradition if the umpire can't bellow "Play Ball." "Game called off because of rain" is always such a blow.

## Tennis Bright

(Continued from page four)

standing as high-school netmen. Both appear to be sure-fire bets for berths on the five-man squad, although at present Rose is having scholastic difficulties.

Dingler had an outstanding record as a Klamath Falls prepster and is regarded by Laurence as lacking only in experience.

## Wiley Fifth In Canada

These three freshmen, together with returning lettermen MacDonald, Neras, and George, sophomore Ron Lowell, and transfer Wiley, who is ranked fifth nationally in Canada, should, in Laurence's opinion, form one of Oregon's strongest net squads in recent years.

## ND schedule:

- April 26, OSC at Corvallis
- May 2, WSC at Eugene
- May 3, Idaho at Eugene
- May 10, Washington at Seattle
- May 13, OSC at Eugene
- May 16, ND Tourney at Pullman

## Mixed Doubles Bowling Scores

The mixed doubles bowling action continued as usual Wednesday night, with teams in Leagues 3 and 4 competing.

In league 3, June and George Troch took 3 points from Moore and Graham, the losers receiving 1 point. Other matches in league 3 ended as follows: Rilea and Ekstrom 4, Goodard and Reekman 0; Butz and Ireland 3, Pasley and Koppe 1; Allen and Naapi 3, Perrett and Perrett 1.

In league 4, the results were: Finzer and Shaw 3, Williams and Thompson 1; Bryan and Baumohl 4, Cannon and Cannon 0; Donahue and Theriault 4, Cosart and Heestand 0; Hande and Hamilton 1, Lowery and Englund 3.

Ken Ireland rolled the high men's series with 576 and high game with 234. Nancy Byran chalked up a 402 series to lead the women keepers for the evening.

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