

Duck Tracks

By Bill Gurney

Emerald Sports Editor

For the first time, skiing was an official varsity sport this season at Oregon. The Webfoots were coached by Gene Harlow, who is also football line coach in season.

They finished third in the Northern Division meet, and third in the Reno Winter Carnival, which were the two major meets they entered.

On the face of it, there is one aspect of the season which is rather surprising. Only one Oregon skier earned his varsity letter in the sport. This was Jan Onsrud, Norwegian exchange student, who finished second in the ND crosscountry event at Emida, Idaho and Pullman, Washington on Feb. 16 and 17.



JOHN MCKAY

The reason for this is not that Oregon skiers lacked talent. On the contrary, Harlow considers that they had a successful season, and that several more besides Onsrud were outstanding.

Perhaps the main factor in the scarcity of letter-winners was the strength of the competition in major meets. Of the Northern Division ski teams, Harlow said this:

"I think the general level of competition in the Northern Division ranks either first or second in the nation."

What It Takes To Letter

And at the Reno Winter Carnival, the Oregons finished third behind first-place Denver, which later won the national college crown, and Utah, which is also a skiing power.

The requirements for earning a letter, standard around the Northern Division are as follows:

An athlete must finish first, second or third in an individual event, or he must be a member of a three-man team which places first or second in an event. Either of these conditions must be satisfied in a major meet, which is considered one in which six or more colleges participate.

Thus the ND meet, which was invitational and included schools other than the five Division institutions, and the Reno Winter Carnival, were the only two major meets Oregon entered. And in these, the Webfoots were competing with the best in the nation.

Ducks Missed Vanderbilt Cup Races

Harlow said that had Oregon been able to compete in the Vanderbilt Cup Races in California, more men would have lettered. The Ducks were unable to do this because of the meet was first postponed, then switched back to the original date, and by then they had made other plans.

The Ducks did enter the Hart Mountain meet at Lakeview, Oregon; Jim Redden captured a first in the downhill and a third in the slalom events there, while Dick Thomas earned second in the slalom.

Harlow considers that his crosscountry team was outstanding. It was composed of Onsrud, Stu McCollum, Haakon Mjelva, and Arne Borgnes. Also strong was his downhill and slalom team, made up of Thomas, Roger Dockstader, McCollum, Matt Vranizan, and Redden.

According to Harlow, the only major loss by graduation is McCollum, who narrowly missed earning a letter. McCollum finished fifth in the ND meet giant slalom with a time of 34.5 seconds, just a second under the winning time of 33.5 by WSC's Bill Noble.

Toboggan Team, Yet!

Asking Harlow for any anecdotes about the season, he said there weren't any, except that Oregon also had a Toboggan team, coached by John McKay. This was a surprise, as we had never heard of such an aggregation. Impressed, we asked McKay, who was present, what the prospects were for next season.

"Fine," he said, "We'll have an even better team than this year. We may even have a meet."

Shaw Still Leads Hitters

Anyway, turning from toboggan to baseball, Centerfielder George Shaw still leads Duck regulars in hitting. Shaw has a .405 average, on 15 hits in 37 trips to the plate. Also the fleet Shaw leads in runs scored, with 14.

Ron Phillips has the next highest average with .400, while Second Baseman Daryle Nelson is hitting .385. Nelson also leads the team in runs batted in with 12, in home runs with two, and in doubles with six.

Left Fielder Jim Livesay has raised his average to .316, and Earl Averill Jr., outfielder converted into third baseman, is now hitting .295. Both men started slowly on the California trip, but began to hit better during the five games last week.

Ducklings Slate Tilt With Eugene Axemen

Coach John Londahl and his Oregon Junior varsity nine will launch their next attack against the Eugene high Axemen Thursday on the Duckling field. In their last engagement the JVs downed the Axemen by an 11-2 count.

Freshman Bill Blodgett from Grant high of Portland has shown the most polish among the hurlers, although Farrell Albright of Milwaukie and Don Delaney of the 1951 Ducklings should improve with experience. All three pitchers were used in the lone engagement this season. At the other end of the battery sophomore Don Hedgepeth and freshman Neil Marlett have been working out. Hedgepeth caught, during the Axeman game.

Byhre, Johnson Sparkle

Clean-up batter Bob Wagner has been working first base, although rightfielder Jim Tennyson has seen some action at that spot, also. Bill Loch and Gene Duncan are vying for the hot corner at third, but Loch has received the nod as a starter.

To finish off the infield positions Londahl can boast his best at second base. Paul Byhre from Washington high of Portland at second and Jim Johnson from Boise at shortstop are probably the best looking prospects on the JV squad so far this year.

In the outfield Jim Spikerman is the best fielder, but he is weak in the hitting department. At the present, Spikerman is holding down the center field berth. Neil Marlett is performing in left field and should prove to be a potent hitter before the end of the season. Marlett works effectively behind the plate also. Jim Tennyson from Oregon City has been playing right field and thus far has been the heaviest hitter on the squad.

Londahl Coached Frosh

The coach of the team is Colonel John Londahl of the ROTC depart-

ment. Londahl played varsity baseball at Oregon in 1930, 1931 and 1932 and in 1929 he played on the Frosh squad. In his past coaching experience, Londahl was mentor of the Oregon Frosh in 1933, where he coached the now famous Joe Gordon, player on the New York Yankees and Cleveland Indian ball clubs and present manager of the Sacramento Solons. Later Londahl coached at Franklin high of Portland and tutored the Central Washington college football squad to the Evergreen Conference championship.

The Junior varsity nine enter their next engagement with a lone win and no losses. In all, the Ducklings have eight games left and another tentative tussle with Springfield high. Other high schools on the schedule will be Eugene and Medford. The remaining six games will be with the Oregon State college Junior varsity. The schedule for the rest of the season is as follows:

- April 17, Eugene, here
- April 18, OSC JVs, there
- April 25, Medford high, here
- April 26, OSC JVs, here
- May 2, OSC JVs, there
- May 3, OSC JVs, here
- May 9, OSC JVs, here
- May 10, OSC JVs, here

IM SCHEDULE

Tuesday, April 15

BASEBALL

- 3:50 North Field Phi Delta Theta vs. Pi Kappa Phi
- 3:50 South Field Delta Upsilon vs. Sigma Alpha Mu
- 3:50 Upper Field Phi Kappa Psi vs. Sigma Chi
- 4:55 North Field Delta Tau Delta vs. Alpha Tau Omega
- 4:55 South Field Campbell Club vs. Tau Kappa Epsilon
- 4:55 Upper Field Sigma Alpha Epsilon vs. Pi Kappa Alpha

GOLF

Pi Kappa Alpha vs. Phi Kappa Psi

TENNIS

Phi Sigma Kappa vs. Pi Kappa Alpha

Two No-Hitters

(Continued from page four)

Tau Omega nine out-hit Pi Kappa Alpha 15 to 3 as chucker Bill Wright spread out six hits and Third Basemen Altman supported with a four-for-four record at the plate. Ireland and Hart, losing hurlers, allowed ten hits.

The only close game of the day ended in a 9 to 8 victory of Tau Kappa Epsilon over Sigma Alpha Epsilon. Teke batsmen got hold of SAE chucker Brown for 14 hits while their own pitcher, Bob Lacy, gave up eight hits.

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