

Duck Tracks

By John Whitty

As the 1952 baseball season progresses, certain things become apparent to followers of the University of Oregon's diamond squad as the Duck baseballers continue through their Northern Division schedule.

First and most important, this year's Oregon team is more than living up to advance expectations. At the start of the season, most predictions indicated that the Oregon State Beavers, under the direction of Coach Ralph O. Coleman, would sweep to the championship with little or no competition.

Ducks Pushing OSC for Crown

As matters stood before Wednesday's games, OSC was well on its way to the championship, with a 6-3 record for a .667 average. It happens that Oregon's percentage in ND play at that time was also .667, with the Webfoots possessing a 4-2 won-loss record.

These figures show that OSC was in possession of first place in the conference play, with Coach Don Kirsch's Webfoots a mere half game behind them due to the fact that the Ducks have played three fewer games than the Beavers.

Right at this time the Duck baseballers are in the midst of the most grueling week of play during the entire season. They played the game with Idaho Wednesday and will have another tilt again today. On Friday and Saturday, it is the WSC Cougars in Pullman, and on Monday and Tuesday of next week they face the Washington Huskies in Seattle.

Six Contests in One Week

This comes to a total of six games in seven days, all of which are scheduled to be played away from home. The results of this trip will almost certainly spell out the final outcome of the ND season as far as the Webfoot fliers are concerned.

However, even if the Webfoots drop a few games to their opponents on the trip, they will still have a chance to take the Northern Division crown, because their strongest competitors for the title, the Beavers from Oregon State, are also making a similar trip through the Inland Empire and the Puget Sound.

The season will be climaxed in the Willamette Valley for the Ducks, as their last four tilts pit them against these same Oregon Staters in games which are scheduled for May 17, 19, 23 and 24. The contests on the 19th and 24th will be played here in Eugene, while the other two will be held in Corvallis.

Beavers Lead in Statistics

A look at the recap on this year's Northern Division baseball season brings to light some percentages which should interest followers of the ND diamond sport.

Oregon State is statistically far ahead of the rest of the league, as they were the holders of first places in both team batting and team fielding, as of last Saturday, May 2. The Beavers have a team batting average of .326, while Oregon, the next highest, has compiled a .310 percentage. OSC's lead in the fielding department comes as a result of the .942 fielding average.

Idaho, which is in last place in the fielding as far as percentages are concerned, has one consolation. The Vandals have chalked up 12 double plays in 10 games to lead the conference in this phase of the game.

Ralph Coleman also lists on his roster the two leading pitchers in the division. Beaver hurlers Bailey Brem and Norb Wellman had each been credited with two victories and no defeats when the statistics were compiled, and were the only ND hurlers with this record.

Averill Going Strong

Oregon's Earl Averill held the lead in two departments. The Duck All-American has banged out three circuit clouts to lead the conference in the home run column. Averill also holds the top spot in runs-batted-in, as he has sent 15 of his Duck teammates across the plate in the six contests played by the Oregon squad.

Averill's showing is especially impressive in view of the fact that Oregon had played only six conference tilts, while the other ND hitters against whom he was competing have all had eight games in which to accumulate homers and RBIs. Idaho has played ten games so far this year.

In the Northern Division percentage batting race, Chuck Fisk of OSC has taken a commanding lead, as he has compiled a .500 average with 12 hits in 24 times at bat. Joe Sugura and Averill of Oregon hold the fifth and sixth spots with identical .407 averages.

Rain Halts Tennis Play, But Webfoots Beat Staters, 4-2

By Bill Norval

Oregon's varsity team downed OSC for the second time this season in a 4-2 match played on the University courts Wednesday.

The Webfoots came out ahead of the Staters in both singles and doubles, winning singles 3 to 2 and taking the only doubles event finished. The win gives Oregon a 4-0 mark for the season.

The expected close duel in first singles between Tom Macdonald and Don Megale of OSC failed to materialize as Macdonald downed the Beaver netter 6-2 and 6-4.

Megale Tense

Megale was obviously tense in the opening games of the first set, committing several double faults and losing the first two games by love scores.

However, he finally got in the match in the fourth game, when he started playing the net to cop the game, 50-15.

After losing the next game as well on good net playing by Megale, Macdonald came back to win two in a row for the first set, 6-2.

In the second set, however, the ex-Marshfield High school athlete put up a lot better fight.

Rushing the net after his serves, Megale managed to place his shots out of Macdonald's reach enough times to take the first game 50-30.

Macdonald Stretches Lead

Macdonald, however, showing a nice net game of his own, and using his power to good effect in the backcourt, then took five games to the Stater's one for a 5-2 lead.

At that point Megale, again getting his net game warmed up, made a comeback to break through Macdonald's service and win his own for a 5-4 count.

"Twas all to no avail," however, as Macdonald, evidently undesirous of having to go to extra games, quickly shut out the Beaver 50 love for set and match.

Rose Edges Allison

Considerably closer was Bill Rose's three-set battle with George Allison in second singles, which went to Rose in three sets.

Things were even up after the first two sets, Allison having won the first, 6-3, and Rose the second by a 6-0 score.

The third set went to three

games all before Rose managed to get out in front, 5-3.

The situation looked bad, in the next game, however, as Rose hurt his knee in a futile try for one of Allison's net shots. That gave Allison the game and a four to five deficit.

Rose came through unfazed, however, as he quickly took the next game by a love score, giving him the match.

In third singles, Jack Neer had his usual easy time of it in topping Day of OSC, 6-0 and 6-1.

OSC Wins Two

Oregon State countered with wins in both fourth and fifth singles. In the former, Ron Lowell lost to Pete Carter, 4-6 and 3-6, and in fifth spot Don Neraas lost to Bud McCoy, OSC, 5-7 and 2-6.

This gave Oregon their 3-2 edge in singles, thus making necessary only one doubles win to take the match. The Webfoots cinched the match by taking the first two sets in the doubles.

With Neer's serve working almost to perfection and with Rose hitting everything in sight at the net, Oregon easily took first doubles from Allison and Megale, 6-0 and 6-3 in a match that ended up in the rain.

Rain Ends Play

In second doubles, Macdonald and Neil George had a little closer go as they edged out Beavers Day and Carter 9-7 in the first set and lost the second, 4-6. Rain halted the third set.

Friday, the Webfoots will leave for Seattle for their final dual match of the season, playing the University of Washington on Saturday.

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IM Tennis, Golf Decided Soon

Six days from today the winners of the intramural tennis and golf championships will be known, and it will be possible to figure out which of the thirty-odd men's living organizations will win the annual intramural trophy. At this time it is virtually impossible to tell just which of the five clubs remaining in the elimination playoffs will prove to be the victor in the tennis circles.

In the upper bracket Beta Theta Pi has reached the semi-final post and will play the winner of the Minturn-Campbell Club match. In the lower group Sigma Chi will meet French Hall for a semi-final position. The other two clubs participating in the playoffs have not as yet been decided.

If things run true to schedule, the semi-final matches will be played on May 12 and 13 with the championship being held the next day, the 14th.

Turning to IM links activities some definite contenders can be seen in the form of Phi Kappa Psi, Phi Gamma Delta, Phi Delta Theta, and Sigma Chi. Due to failure of some living organizations to turn in their scorecards on time, the standings in the elimination brackets are considerably fouled up.

The original schedule called for the semi-final matches to be held on the ninth and twelfth, and the final encounter to be played on Tuesday, the thirteenth. It is hoped that the weather will hold up so that this slate can be followed as close as possible.

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