

Duck Tracks

By John Whitty

Emerald Sportswriter

The talk about the Stanford game is dying down now, and most of the attention of Oregon sports fans is being centered on the coming grid contest with Oregon State this Saturday at Portland.

However, we feel that the game played last week deserves a little more discussion before we relegate it to the position of a fond memory of our days in college, or perhaps forget it entirely. That is, all but the two-hundred odd Oregon students who followed the Webfoot gridders to Palo Alto, who will probably remember this particular thriller for quite some time.

From reports that we have heard and from what Coach Len Casanova said at the rally held for the returning team, it seems that the victory was no surprise to the graying mentor and his charges, but it apparently caused a number of raised eyebrows down south.

'No Ground Attack'

Before the contest, reports to the effect that "Oregon shouldn't scare the Indians much," and that "Oregon claims no ground attack whatever," were circulating around the San Francisco area and in most of the newspapers.

For a team with "no ground attack whatever," the statistics show that the Ducks did remarkably well. Oregon gained 164 of its 296 total yards on the ground, and only 132 via the airways. Stanford on the other hand was able to glean only 88 yards from the Webfoot defenders on rushing plays, while chalking up a creditable 321 yards on passes.

One encouraging aspect of the game was the fact that the Ducks had to come from behind to win, and they succeeded admirably, something which they have been unable to do in other games this year. The undermanned Webfoots just refused to give up until the final gun.

This was no collection of first-half wonders, but a fighting, well-organized team, which set out to do a job and finished it perfectly.

The victory was only the fifth for the Ducks over Stanford since the series started in 1900. The Indians have come out on the winning end 15 times since that time, while one game resulted in a tie.

Ya Never Know

The season finale is on the schedule for this Saturday, and the tilt should prove to be much more interesting than was expected early in the season. Whenever Oregon plays Oregon State, anything can, and usually does happen.

The start of this year, most Oregon fans were living in dread of the OSC contest, because the Beavers had shown that they were able to rise to great heights, as in the Michigan State tilt, in which the men from Corvallis nearly upset the powerful Spartan eleven.

As things stand now, however, it is Oregon which must be dubbed the favorite. Oregon State became the lowest of the low last Saturday when the Beavers absorbed a 27-6 licking from the Idaho Vandals, perennial cellar dwellers in the Pacific Coast Conference.

It begins to look as if the cries of "We wuz robbed" which were issuing from Moscow earlier in the season might have been well founded. In any case, it was a bitter pill for Coach Kip Taylor and his grid eleven to swallow.

Beavers May Bounce

Not to be disregarded, however, is the possibility that the Beavers will bounce back fighting mad after their drubbing and give the Webfoots all they can handle. The added incentive of playing Oregon will no doubt aid considerably the efforts of the Beaver coach at bringing his boys to an emotional peak for the contest.

The Ducks, too, will be at the climax point for the kickoff this Saturday. Rather than being "down" after their tremendous effort against Stanford, the Webfoots' spirits should be soaring. The Stanford victory was no flash-in-the-pan combination of luck and skill. It was the result of determination and the will to win.

Now that the Webfoot running backs have their feet under them, Oregon will enter a game with a dual threat for the first time this season. Previously, the Ducks were forced to rely mainly on the aerial route for their yardage, but Novikoff, Hodges, and company showed that the Webfoots could make touchdowns through the line also in Saturday's game.

For the last three years, the Beavers have taken the measure of the Webfoot gridders, but never by a very large margin. In 1949, OSC won, 20-10, and in 1950 they fought their way to a 14-2 victory over the Webfoots.

Last year, with big Sam Baker carrying virtually the whole load offensively, Oregon State won again to make it three in a row as the Ducks went down in defeat by a 14-7 margin. Baker is back again for his last year, and if the men from U of O can hold him down this time they may finish the season with a record of three wins, six losses, and one tie.

Dallas Backers Quit Franchise

DALLAS (P) — There will be no further effort by Dallas businessmen to operate a franchise in the National Football league. A spokesman for a group of men who had planned to bid for the club's return said the bid had been withdrawn.

The spokesman, Dallas banker John Coyle, said league Commissioner Bert Bell had squashed the bid by his refusal to eliminate or split up \$200,000 that would have to be paid for a lease on Yankee stadium in New York.

The Dallas club succeeded the New York Yankee franchise this year and \$200,000 was owed on the lease for the Yankee stadium. The league took over the Dallas franchise after the club lost an estimated \$250,000.

Injured Fighter May Drop Ring

PARIS (P) — Laurent Dauthille underwent medical examinations today to determine if he had suffered any permanent injuries from a second-round knockout he experienced last night at the hands of Mickey Laurent.

Dauthille announced that he was through with the ring after the bout. However, some Paris boxing observers believed he may change his mind unless he was injured.

Rickey May Name Haney Pirate Pilot

PITTSBURGH (P) — General Manager Branch Rickey of the Pittsburgh Pirates has denied a report that he is all set to name a successor to Manager Billy Meyer. Meyer resigned at the end of the past campaign. Rickey says he may announce the new manager before the winter meeting at Phoenix, Arizona, next month. Rickey declined to say who is under consideration, but the general feeling is that Fred Haney of the Hollywood club in the Pacific Coast league will get the post.

Uncle Sam Calls To Huskies' Early

SEATTLE, Wash. (P) — A star University of Washington football halfback, Bill Earley, has been ordered to report for duty with the armed services at Aberdeen, Wash., December 2nd. Earley is a 20-year-old senior.

Oregon All-Stars

MOSCOW, Idaho (P) — Five Oregon players have been picked by Idaho football Coach Babe Curfman on his all-opponents' team.

He named Fullback Sam Baker and Tackle John Witte of Oregon State and Guard Jack Patera of Oregon to his offensive unit. Curfman selected End Jim Cordial of Oregon State and Back George Shaw of Oregon among his defensive eleven.

Mikan Takes Scoring Lead

NEW YORK, N.Y. (P) — George Mikan of the Minneapolis Lakers has taken the lead in the National Basketball association scoring race. He has netted 162 points in nine contests for an average of 18 points a game. Bob Cousy and Ed Macauley of the Boston Celtics have fewer points because they have played in only seven games but their averages are higher. Cousy has 155 points for an average of 22 a game while Macauley has 145 points and a 20.7 average.

Offense Leaders 'Play for Fun'

SAN JOSE, Cal. (P) — College presidents seeking to de-emphasize football may or may not find solace in the experience of San Jose State this season. The California school adopted a "play-for-fun" grid program this year. No training tables, no athletic scholarships. In effect, the game was given back to the students. So what happened?

San Jose State has ended up with one of the most spectacular football teams in the country. The team has won six of eight games. The latest victory was over the University of Montana, 39 to 21. San Jose State gained nearly 600 yards in that game and zoomed past Michigan State into the national leadership in total offense. Some de-emphasized football!

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