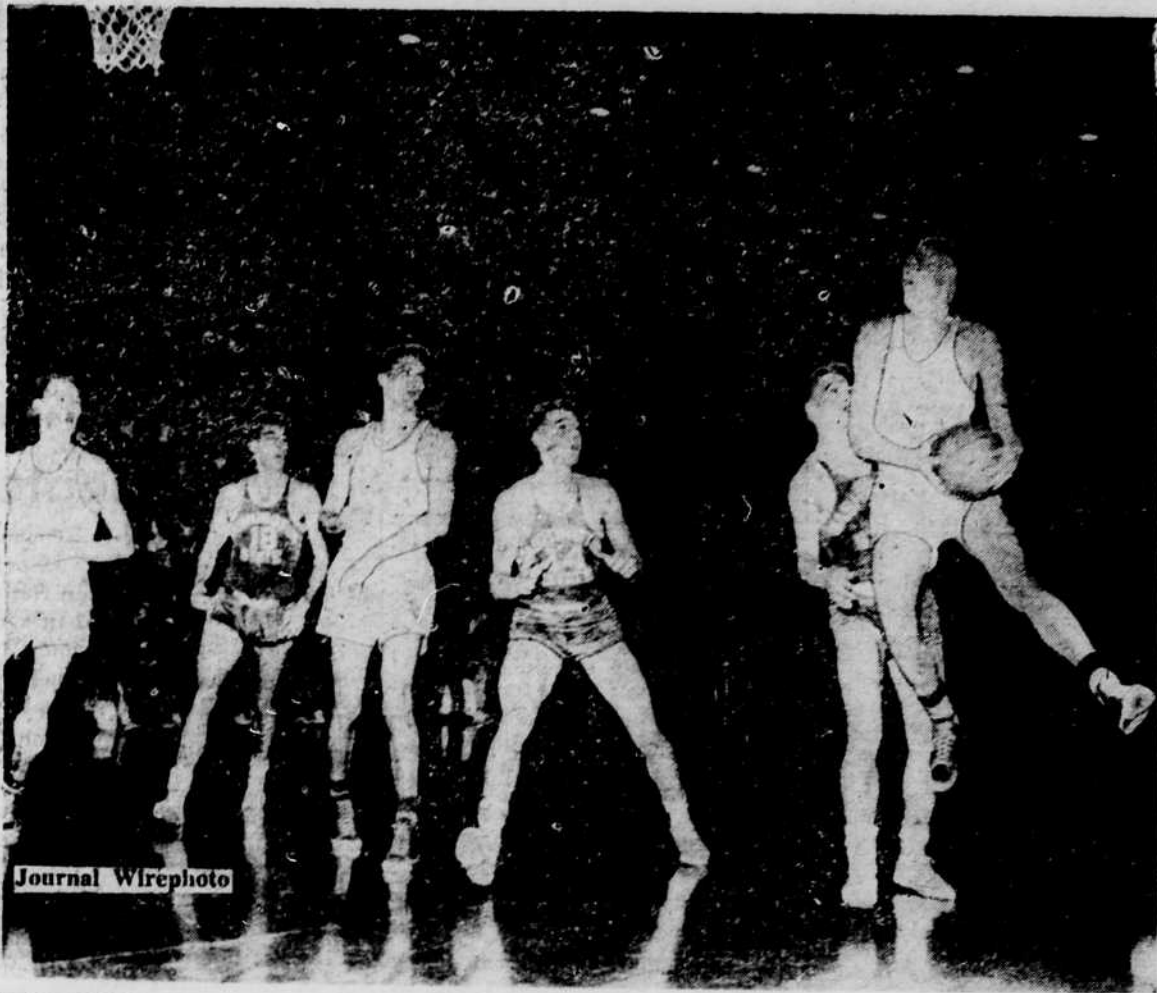
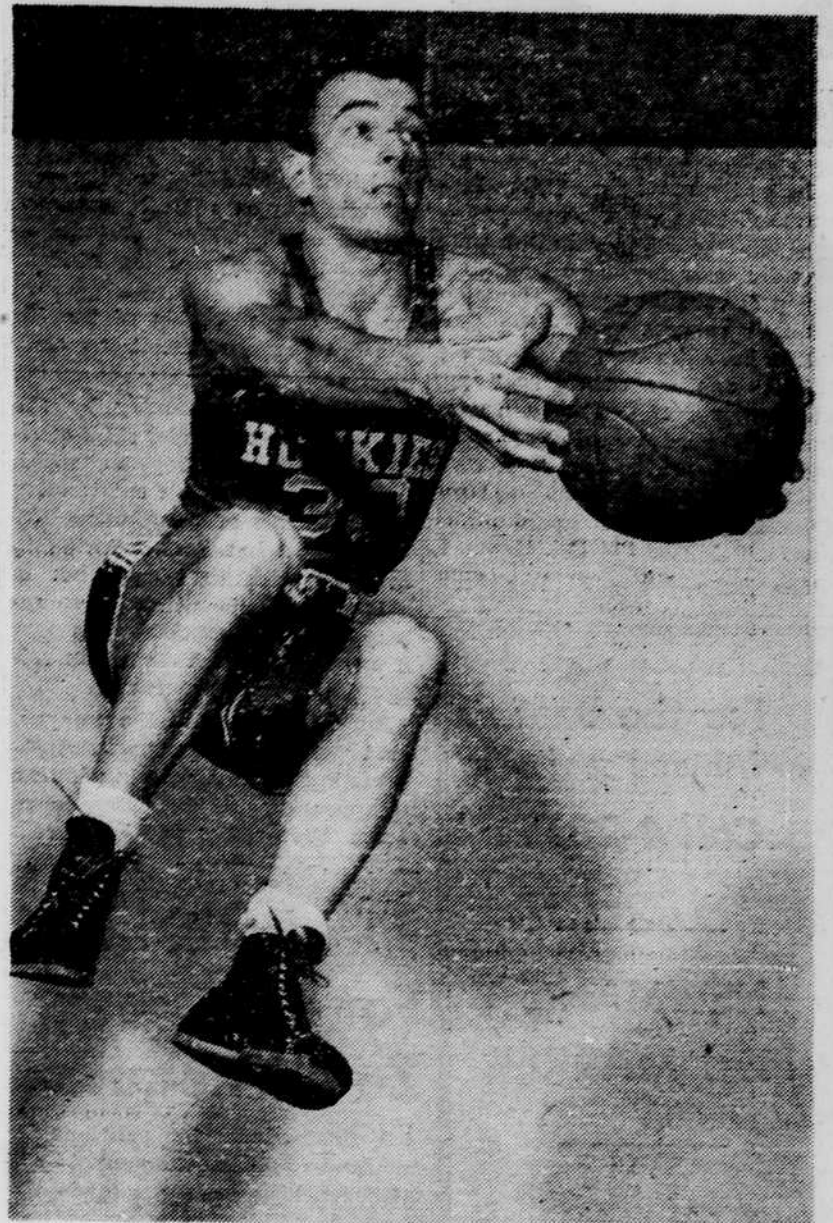


Northern Division Basketball



ACTION is the by-word of Northwest basketball, as featured by Idaho, Washington State, Washington, Oregon State and Oregon from January to March every year. Since the inception of the NCAA championships only Oregon has been able to capture the glittering crown. But since 1939 Northern Division schools have fared well—Washington State was second in 1941; Washington, seventh in 1943; Oregon State, fifth in 1947; Oregon State, fourth in 1949; and Washington, sixth in 1951.



—Eugene Register-Guard Photo

JUMPING Joe Cipriano of the University of Washington Huskies is one of the reasons why the Seattle team is undefeated in conference play and has suffered only one loss all season long. Cipriano, a senior from Nooksack Valley, Wash., has scored 103 points in 11 games.

Oregon . . .

Like a well-known gasoline slogan, the Webfoots of the University of Oregon are the "go farther team" of the Northern division. It has been the habit of John Warren, and lately, Bill Borchert to elevate their clubs a perch higher than expected.

Picked this year to finish no higher than fourth in the race, the Ducks already have forced many analysts to overhaul their original selections. Borchert, a novice in the league from the standpoint of service, is rated as one of the top young coaches in the business.

Oregon is strictly a fast break five and thus are a popular drawing card throughout the league. Their offense is built around Chet Not, the senior center, and a driver guard, Ken Wegner. Ed Halberg, Barney Holland, Keith Farnam, Bob Hawes and Bob Stout also figure heavily in Webfoot plans.



TRANSFERS play an important role in the Northern division and Tony Vlastelica may be one of the prize plums in this lot. At any rate, Slats Gill at Oregon State has big plans for the big guy from Grays Harbor JC in Washington.

OSC . . .

Mystery club in the Northern division has to be the Oregon State college Beavers. No one except Amory T. (Slats) Gill is sure just exactly what the Beavers have this year.

The Beavers could pull the season's number one surprise this weekend when they trot their wares onto the shiny new floor at Seattle's Edmundson pavilion. And if they do surprise, it will be just another in a long line of Gill achievements, among which are three coast titles and six northern championships in 25 seasons at Corvallis.

Outstanding performances are expected of transfer Tony Vlastelica, center from Grays Harbor junior college in Washington and all-Northern division Guard Danny Johnston.

Idaho . . .

Once upon a time the Northern division's perennial basement tenants, the University of Idaho Vandals—since 1946 when they won the northern crown—have become a growing power.

Charles L. (Chuck) Finley, who learned his basketball from Hank Iba at Maryville, Mo. State Teachers, has done much for the school, witness the Vandals' Dec. 29 and 30 wins over Western Kentucky and Wyoming at the Oklahoma City Tournament.

Fortunate is the word for the Vandal coach who has four outstanding lettermen in action this year. With Hartly Krueger, Dwight Morrison, Harlan Melton and Bruce McIntosh in the lineup Feb. 27 and 28 when the Vandals host the Washington Huskies, there still may be a chance for the towering Idahoans, who present one of the most intricate offensive patterns on the Pacific Coast.

WSC . . .

Happier days are in store for Jack Friel at Washington State college, where his Cougars have fallen victim to a victory drought.

But Friel, who along with Slats Gill, has been around for 25 or more years, has guided his charges to three Pacific Coast conference championships and almost always fields a contender, despite a usual lack of material.

Washington's Mr. Basketball introduced the two platoon system to the Northwest and since then it has taken hold at Idaho and Oregon State. The main thought behind the unit system is to send in a contingent of fresh athletes, thereby resting the first platoon simultaneously, rather than break up a combination.

Far and away the star of the Staters is the 26-year-old native of Australia, the springy Mullins—who is the offensive key and sparkplug. But the future isn't dark at WSC, even after Mullins graduates, because Friel is certain to bring Guards Ron Bennink and Bob Klock, Forward Bob Swanson and Center Bill Rehder into their own.

Washington . . .

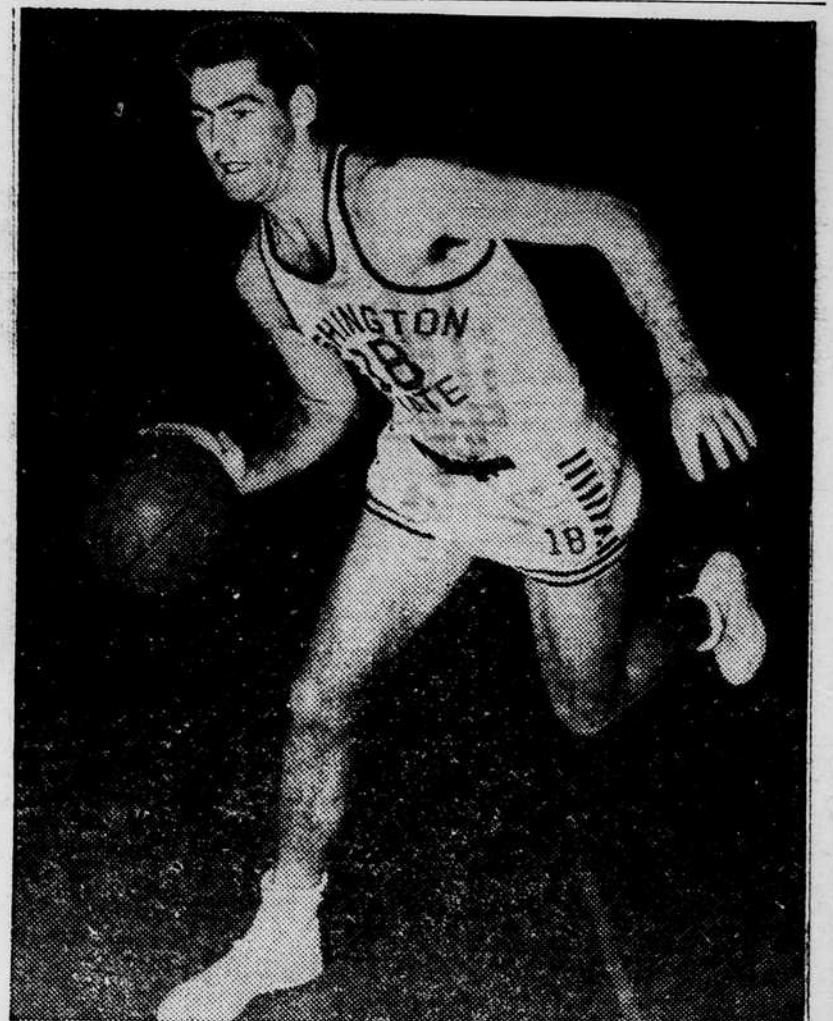
Five times crowned champions of the Northern division during the past decade and five times since 1923 the Pacific Coast conference titlist, the University of Washington Huskies are certainly the kingpins of the region.

Plummeting along like a runaway locomotive it seems unlikely that anything should forestall a sixth title in 11 years.

One of the prize Huskies to end all prizes is Bob, better known as Hooks, Houbregs, the radar-arm-

ed, ambidexterous center who has stood the sports world on its heels by his prodigious feats—25-foot hookshots and 49 point outbursts against one of its toughest conference opponents.

But it's not all Houbregs, strange to say, but Guards Charlie Koon and Joe Cipriano set the club in motion; Forward Mike McCutcheon is the take-charge guy, the clutch fellow; and spindly Doug McClary handles the rebounding.



AUSTRALIA is represented in the Northern division by Pete Mullins of Washington State college. Mullins, no kangaroo, but a whale of a basketball player, is the fourth leading scorer in the circuit, despite WSC's presence in the basement.



DUCKS don't fly at Eugene, Oregon—they run. And Keith Farnam, the slender senior from Salem, is of prime importance to the Borchert system. Despite an attack of pneumonia, Farnam counted upon heavily for the balance of the season at Oregon.