

Duck Tracks

By Larry Lavelle
Emerald Sportswriter

Bolstered by the return of a sensible, curtailed substitution rule and a profitable four weeks of spring practice, the University of Oregon Webfoots have established themselves as the most improved football squad on the Pacific Coast. The coaches find it hard to disguise the fact; and the enthused athletic news bureau isn't in any mood to dampen this enthusiasm—not after four years of austerity.

What we are looking for," Len Casanova repeated throughout the sessions, "is consistency in efforts and results." Apparently the Ducks have achieved measured success along these lines, since the staff has done little moaning. The number one task, by far, was converting some of the specialists into more versatile, hence useful personnel.

An example: Emery Barnes, the elastic right end from Portland, has been a defensive demon, but in less than a month Barnes has exhibited enough progress offensively that he would start against Nebraska if that game were today instead of Sept. 19. Ron Pheister has an altogether different problem. The sophomore center saw no action with the defensive platoon last year, but indications are that Pheister will back up the line and thus save his job as first string hiker.

Want Balanced Attack

It was obvious during the spring scrimmages that the Ducks were working overtime in an attempt to get a workable running attack, to balance the effective passing duo of George Shaw and Barney Holland. With Shaw and Stan Dmochowsky, another QB, on leave with the Northern Division baseball champions and Ted Anderson, track, missing from the drills, it gave Cas and his assistants a chance to concentrate on that running game.

And the two scrimmages produced but nine touchdowns. Last year the football was fired with abandon; the Ducks produced 14 tallies in three quarters of action and Casanova mercifully called a halt to the proceedings.

What about this "most improved" ball club? Jack Roche, Casanova's right hand man, attributes much of the improvement to the junior college transfers—Tim Flaherty, 207-pound junior guard from Pasadena; Walt Gaffney, 174-pound junior halfback from Binghamton, N. Y. via San Bernardino JC; Don Granberg, 176-pound, 6 foot, 1 inch end from Everett, Wash.; and Keith Tucker, 197-pound junior from Fresno.

Except in a few cases like that of Tom Novikoff, Oregon has had miserable luck with jaysee transfers. But Roche says this crop is different. They all fill our needs."

A Big Improvement

Most of the experts have tabbed Oregon's flank as the most vulnerable, offensively and defensively. "Not so," contends Roche. "The biggest surprise, and a pleasant one, has been the play of Tom Elliot, a converted halfback." Elliot, an ex-marine, started the 1952 season as a halfback, but a fractured leg sidelined him for the year.

Although the Ducks lack a power runner of the Novikoff type at the fullback slot, Roche believes that Dean Van Leuven, 198-pound holdover from Bandon, is a good broken field runner and elusive enough that the Webfoots will not suffer there.

The center of the line is considerably strengthened and will be a bit heavier than the 1952 forward wall. Competition is keen and that's a healthy condition.

At present the Ducks plan to carry 33 men, or three platoons. "We'll probably play a first unit for one quarter, then substitute with the entire first team made up entirely of seniors, the second, junior and so on."

Roche hinted that there wouldn't be much difference between the first and second units. "When we bring in a new team, so will the opposition."

Starting Assignments?

Here's a possible line-up which the Ducks could use against Nebraska Sept. 19 in Lincoln.

The first unit: LE—Elliot (188); LT—Hal Reeve (222); LG—Harry Mondale (196); C—Pheister (206); RG—George Mutschler (193); RT—Jack Patera (213); RE—Barnes (207); Q—Shaw (178); LH—Dick James (170); RH—Gaffney (174); F—Van Leuven (198).

Second unit: LE—John Reed (187); LT—Tucker (197); LG—Flaherty (207); C—Dave Lowe (223); RG—Ken Sweitzer (192); RT—Harry Johnson (213); RE—Len Berrie (210); Q—Holland (186); LH—Anderson (183); RH—Cece Hodges (174); F—Larry Rose (194).

Chances are you won't get a chance to see these Ducks again until Oct. 3 at Hayward field when they host the UCLA Bruins, the PCC favorite . . . if it's anything like the 1952 opener in LA you'll see the football game of a life time.

TROJANS SHOO-INS

Ducks In PCC Meet

The Oregon trackmen ring down the curtain on the 1953 track and field season at Palo Alto today and Saturday in the annual PCC championships. The Ducks, who finished sixth last year, have a good chance of a better performance this year, but Southern Cal is considered a shoo-in for top honors.

The Ducks finished third in the dual meet season with a record of two wins and two losses, and also finished third in the Northern Division championships at Eugene last Saturday. But Oregon has more potential than they have displayed to date.

Time Trials Held

Time trials will be held in the 100, 220, 440, high and low hurdles, and any field events where it is necessary.

The Ducks stand to pick up their most points in the pole vault. Three Webfoot vaulters took the trip, and Oregon has a good chance of placing two among the point winners. Ray Packwood seems like a good choice for Oregon's only first place in the meet, having turned in the best heights this season. Packwood is consistent at 14 feet, and unless something very unusual happens, no one else in the conference will top this.

Southern Cal's Trojans are heavily favored to take the meet for the thirteenth consecutive year. The big SC farm system has filled up every weak spot and the Trojans will field two world's record holders. Perry O'Brien and Sam Iness, shot put and discus record holders, respectively, will be trying for bigger and better records.

Jack Davis, SC's ace hurdler, who has run the high hurdles in 13.7, just .2 of a second off the world's record, will be heavily favored to take both hurdles events, but Willard Wright, another Southern Cal boy, will furnish plenty of competition. The Trojans are also favored to capture the broad jump, and Ernie Shelton is as good, if not better than WSC's Howard McCants in the high jump.

Clement in 880

Doug Clement may place in the 880, and both Martin and Turner could pick up points in the mile



FRED TURNER
Duck Miler in PCC Meet

run. Oregon's two miler, Ken Reiser should score in the distance event, since the Southern Division is particularly impotent in this event.

The teams are rated in about the following order: 1. Southern Cal; 2. Stanford; 3. California; 4. WSC; 5. UCLA; 6. Oregon; 7. Washington; 8. Idaho; 9. OSC.

Sales Start July 1

Faculty season tickets will go on sale July 1 for the coming football and basketball seasons. The price will remain the same as last year which was \$15.00 per season ticket.

A married member of the faculty may purchase one for each member of his family for which he claims a tax exemption; single members may purchase two. All civil service employees may purchase two tickets.

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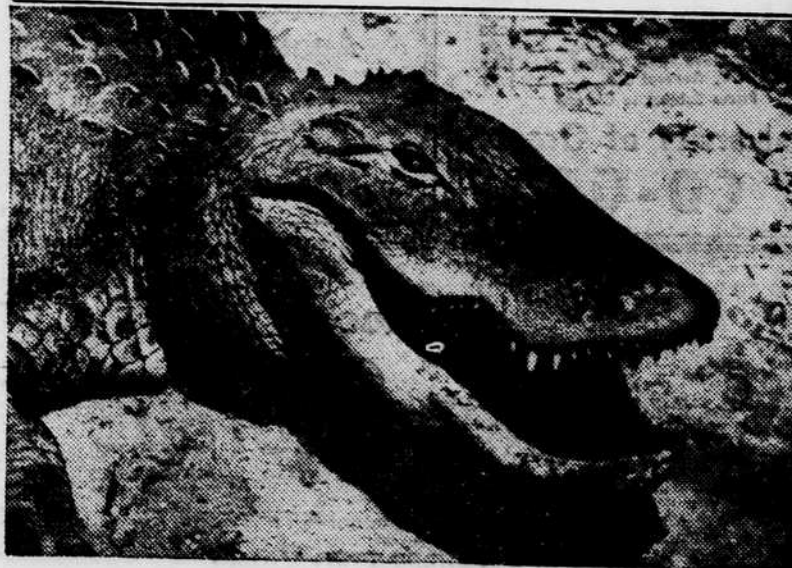
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Duck Netmen Post 2-7 Mark

Oregon's tennis team finished conference play last weekend by entering the ND finals held at the University of Washington. Ron Lowell and Neil George, two of the team's outstanding players, gained the semi-finals, but were defeated by the championship Washington team. The second doubles, Bob Baker and Martin Magi, were eliminated in the preliminaries by OSC.

During the season, the varsity had a 2-7 record. In conference play they posted a 1-4 mark.

The Frosh team played four matches, winning one. They defeated OCE 5-2, then lost the next three contests, including two to the OSC Rooks.

Although several of his varsity players will graduate, Coach Capt. Laurence predicted "a better season next year." He state that several Frosh players, including Dick Gray, Don Bonime, Shannon Oldham, Bill Dutton and Jerry Ogl, would be of help in building the team in 1954.