

Duck Tracks

By Bob Robinson
Emerald Sports Editor

The halfway mark has been passed in Northern Division basketball play, and, as happens nearly every year, many of the teams are pretty well eliminated from the championship race. Washington, Washington State, and highly rated Idaho have all fallen by the wayside as the race has tightened up in the last two weeks.

With these three teams falling behind it leaves only the Oregon Ducks and Slat's Gill's Oregon State Beavers to battle it out for the crown. It has been many seasons since the two rivals of the state of Oregon have been the top contenders for the championship in the same season and if history repeats itself there ought to be many thrills in store for rooters of both teams before the pennant chase closes.

Actually, the Beavers have the definite advantage at the present time. Although their seven won and three lost record is exactly duplicated by the Webfoots the Orangemen have a much easier set of games remaining than do their Eugene rivals.

Empty Seat Explanation

Athletic News Director, Art Litchman, called something to our attention the other day which ought to be interesting to many university students. It seems that at the last Oregon-OSC game in Eugene there were many complaints made concerning the four rows of empty seats right behind the Oregon players' bench. Many people who were forced to either stand up or sit on the floor were quite perturbed that they were not allowed to sit down in the seemingly vacant seats.

Litchman explained that this section has in the past and will be in the future saved for a seating area for the two competing teams in the preliminary game, in this particular instance, the Oregon Frosh and Clark Junior College. Litchman went on to say that if these places were not saved for them they would be lucky to ever find a seat by the time they get showered and are ready to watch the varsity fracas.

The whole Oregon athletic department is quite anxious to have this situation understood by all students and spectators so that no more confusion and hard-feelings will be caused at future games.

Those Poor Referees!

We have heard so many wild stories and weird complaints concerning the refereeing in the Washington State-Oregon series of last week that we cannot help but stick our noses into the matter and say a word or two.

In the first place we don't believe that the two whistle-tooters in question, Al Lightner and John Murphy, did nearly as bad a job as the grapevine seems to indicate that they did. We won't say they didn't make some mistakes because we are well aware of the fact that they made some very lousy calls for both sides, especially in the last quarter when the game was getting tight. But, what we would like to know is if any basketball fan has ever gone to a basketball game in which the referees did a perfect job, one in which at the conclusion of the game everyone in attendance was completely satisfied that the arbiters had called everything just as it should have been called? It is our belief that if a person is honest he will have to admit that at every game he has attended there has been someone in the crowd who was far from being happy with the course of events. And that is only natural. When the rooter's favorite team is taking it on the chin it is awfully hard not to get aggravated with someone and of course the first person handy is the referee.

Different Attitudes

A good example of the above statement can be taken from the Duck-Cougar tussles. With the crowd in attendance very much a pro-Oregon gathering at both the games there was a great deal of difference in the attitude of the rooters at the conclusion of both battles. In the first game, which the Ducks won handily, 66-51, there were hardly any complaints at all to the refereeing of Lightner and Murphy. But in the second rattle, whoa! WSC took command of the game early in the fray and immediately the Oregon fans began to take it out on the poor striped-shirt men. Now, the thing we would like to know is that with the same two officials doing the tooting at both games how could there have been so much difference in the way they called the fouls and infractions?

We don't think there was any difference. It was just a case of Oregon rooters building up so much withheld emotion that it just had to come out in one way or another. Since their basketball team was sinking under the Cougar barrage, the quickest way to get rid of it was to start heckling the referees and that they did. Referees are hardly ever popular when the home team loses a close game.

Phi Delts Win I. M. Hoop Fray From Beta Five

Phi Delta Theta and Sigma Nu scored basketball victories Monday afternoon in I. M. basketball action and Alpha Tau Omega won over Delta Epsilon by forfeit in another scheduled contest. All the games were between "B" teams.

The Phi Delts continued their march into the play-offs with an easy 39-23 win over Beta Theta Pi. Leading the way for the victors was Pete Williams with nine points. He was closely followed by Al Mundle with six counters. Chandler Sogge led the losing five with eight points.

Sigma Nu had a much harder time in winning their encounter with Phi Kappa Sigma as they were forced to go all out to win a 33-27 decision. The Sigma Nus grabbed an early lead and were ahead most of the way but the Pi Kaps were constantly pressing their favored opponents and were a threat right up to the final whistle.

High point man for Sigma Nu was Johnson with 14 points while Walliser hit the same number for the Pi Kaps.

Monday's games were some of the last ones to be played in "B" team action as most of the leagues are through. Thursday will be the last day of I. M. basketball play with the championship tournaments the only action remaining on the agenda.

'O' to Meet Wed.

The Order of the "O," variety letter winners' club, will hold a very important meeting at the Sigma Alpha Epsilon house Wednesday noon, February 10.

All members are urged to be present because at this meeting the election of new officers will take place.

Only those members with membership cards in their possession now will be eligible to vote in the election.

SPORTS FARE

Tuesday, February 9, 1954
BASKETBALL
3:50, Court 40, Sigma Phi Epsilon B vs. Chi Psi B.
3:50, Court 43, Nestor Hall B vs. Sitzer Hall B.
4:35, Court 40, French Hall B vs. Susan Campbell B.
4:35, Court 43, Chi Psi A vs. Pi Kappa Alpha A.
5:15, Court 40, Phi Gamma Delta A vs. Delta Tau Delta A.
5:15, Court 43, Sigma Phi Epsilon A vs. Theta Chi A.
HANDBALL
4:00, Courts 42, 44, 46, Theta Chi vs. Beta Theta Pi.

In 1948 Stan Musial of the St. Louis Cardinals led the National league in runs, hits, singles, doubles, triples, total bases, batting average, slugging average and runs batted in. He missed the home run crown by one, smashing 39 to 40 for Ralph Kiner and Johnny Mize, who tied.

Sports Staff

Desk Editor: Bob Robinson.
Staff: Bruce Tennant.

SWIM

Winter Swim Schedule

Afternoons 2 to 6
Friday, Saturday, and Sunday

Nights 7 to 10
Wednesday, Thurs., Fri., Sat.

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Webfoots Begin Drills For Vandal Contests

Bill Borchner ran his Oregon Duck basketball team through an extensive workout Monday afternoon as the speedy Webfoots looked ahead to their crucial weekend series with the Idaho Vandals.

Faced by a pair of games in which they must win at least one to stay in the running for the Northern Division basketball championship, the Ducks showed much determination in their first practice session of the week.

Borchner drilled his team on both offensive and defensive maneuvers in hopes he could iron out some of the mistakes that were made in the last Washington State game last week.

The Webfoot team will indeed have the pressure on them when they take to the maple boards against Chuck Finley's Idaho hoopers. The Vandals, who were all but eliminated from contention by their two losses to Washington last Friday and Saturday nights, will have everything to gain and nothing to lose in their skirmishes with the Ducks.

On the other side of the ledger Oregon will simply have to win if they are to stay in the championship race with OSC.

In the Monday practice session it was much too early to tell just who would gain the starting nods against the Idahoans. The only Duck to look real good against WSC in the second game was guard Barney Holland who dumped in 32 points and he is about the only one whom Borchner is sure to start.



BARNEY HOLLAND, stellar Duck guard, will be counted on for some heavy scoring this weekend when the Ducks play Idaho at Moscow.

George Shearing

and his quintet
playing

Wednesday, Feb. 10

at

McArthur Court

7:30 to 10:00 p. m.

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