

# Duck Tracks

By Bob Robinson  
Emerald Sports Editor

Well, the basketball season is all over as far as the Oregon Ducks are concerned and it seems only appropriate that some kind of evaluation should be made of the past season.

Before Bill Borchers' cagers opened their 1953-54 schedule, the Webfoots were conceded little chance of threatening Oregon State for the Northern Division championship or of winning more than half of their games over the entire season.

In both these respects the experts were wrong. The Ducks fought the Beavers tooth and nail all the way through the conference pennant race and, as it turned out, the title was on the block when the two teams lined up for opening tip-off in the final tussle of their four game series.

For the whole season the Oregon ended up with 17 wins against only 10 defeats, much better than the 50-50 split which they were tabbed to attain.

## Good Teamwork

What can be better than expected showing be attributed to? We think that the primary factor in the Ducks' coming up with their respectable record was the great all around teamwork which the squad displayed throughout the year.

What the Webfoots lacked in ability, they made up for with good, solid, and fundamental team play. When the Oregons took to the maple boards on any given night it was just about anybody's guess as to who would be high point man for the Ducks. No one man monopolized the scoring column game after game with his basket shooting. One night Ed Halberg would be the pace-setter, then Barney Holland, Ken Wegner, or Max Anderson would take over the scoring reins. Upon occasion, when none of the above were having an on night, Jerry Ross, Howard Page, Ray Bell, or Bob Hawes all were capable of manufacturing a noteworthy point total.

## Spirit Helps

Probably just as important as teamwork was the Ducks' desire to win. On some occasions the Ducks had this important "will to win" spirit and on others they didn't. Many of the Oregon losses can no doubt be credited to nights when the Webfoots were not quite up for the game.

But, when they wanted to win, the Ducks proved to be a very tough outfit to cope with for any of their opponents. Some of the games when the Ducks were their sharpest were in the two wins over OSC, the 81-63 triumph over Idaho, the 84-68 walkaway from Nebraska, and the series sweep over San Jose State.

Looking to the season, as a whole, one cannot help but commend Borchers and his team for a job well done, one that made Oregon's name well known in basketball circles all along the coast.

## Next Year?

Many people have been wondering just what kind of team the Oregons will sport next year and, of course, it is much too early to give any accurate facts on the matter.

By the graduation route the Ducks will lose some of their top stars, including Ed Halberg, Barney Holland, Ken Wegner, Bob Hawes, and Bob Stout. There is no doubt that these gaps are going to be very tough to fill, but, despite them, the outlook isn't too gloomy.

Howard Page, Jerry Ross, Max Anderson, and Bob Graves were all valuable to the Ducks this season and all of them should show marked improvement before another season rolls around. Reserves who saw limited action and will be back again next season are Kent Dorwin, Gary McManus, Art Weatherford, Bill Sherman, and Rex Davis. All these players are capable and only need experience to develop into valuable assets to the team.

Add to the above list several outstanding Frosh prospects and you will about have next year's squad in a nutshell.

## Green and Fast

From all indications it looks as if next year's quintet will be similar to Washington's team of this season, very green but also very eager. From the list of prospects it appears that the 1954-55 Ducks will have speed to burn with a definite surplus of fast guards.

In throwing a look into the future it appears to us that next year Oregon will have a team that probably won't be a threat for the N. D. championship, but will definitely be an unpredictable obstacle for all their opponents.

# Washington State Favored to Win Pacific Coast Wrestling Tourney

One of the largest tournaments in history is predicted for this year with seven schools sending full teams to the fifth annual Pacific Coast Intercollegiate grappling tourney to be held at Cal Poly, March 12-13.

Wrestling Coach Sheldon Harden of Cal Poly and tournament director, says that Washington State, UCLA, Oregon State, California, San Jose State, San Diego State, and Cal Poly will have men in each of the 10 weight classes. Santa Clara will enter four men.

Two schools—Portland State and San Francisco State — also are scheduled to have representatives. Harden said that Stanford may not have entries because the tourney falls during examinations.

Three schools have notified officials they will not have wrestlers in this year's event. They are California Aggies, Lewis and Clark college, and University of Oregon.

### LIVELY MEET

"I look for the liveliest and the most interesting tournament ever held," Harden predicted. "With so many full teams entered competition will be high. Also there are numerous outstanding wrestlers in each weight."

Washington State won the tourney last year with Oregon State taking second.

Washington State college, defending PCI wrestling champions, are favorites to retain their crown

# Yankees Lose Martinto Draft

By the Associated Press

The world champion New York Yankee baseball team, already in training for the coming season at St. Petersburg, Florida, learned Thursday that they will have to do without the services of second baseman Billy Martin for a while. The hero of the 1953 World Series has been summoned to army duty.

Martin was told today that he must report on Monday morning in San Francisco.

There has been no doubt that Martin would be called up in the draft since he was recently reclassified. However, Martin had believed the call would not come for a few months.

Martin said he will fly from St. Petersburg Friday for San Francisco. Martin served five months in the army but was discharged in 1951 because of his dependents.

The hustling Yankee second-sacker would have found out about his induction sooner but his mother didn't have the heart to tell him.

Mrs. Joan Downey, who received the papers over a week ago, said the New York Yankee infielder already had so many worries she didn't want to tell him.

Mrs. Downey said she received the induction notice before Martin left for the Yankee training camp.

in the fifth annual tourney.

The Cougars, coached by colorful Bill Tomaras, enter the tourney with an undefeated season record of eight dual meets against the best the Pacific coast has to offer.

### THREE CHAMPS

The Washington State matmen will be headed by three defending PCI champions, three second place men, and two third place wrestlers. Defending their crown this year will be Richard Gibson, 123 pounds; Byron Nelson, 147; and Dan McGhee, 167 pounds. In dual meets this year, Gibson is undefeated in eight times out. Nelson has lost two and McGhee one. McGhee's lone loss was to Jim Ellis of Fort Lewis, Wash.

Rounding out the Cougar squad are Shoba Oyawoye, 115 pounds; Alden Peppel, who took second place last year in the 130 pound class; Jim Dolle, 137 pounds; Ray Needham, third place in the PCI last year at 157 pounds, and Joe Hoyt, 177 pound contender.

Vaughn Hitchcock, who took a second place last year at 177 pounds, will step up to the 191 pound class. Skip Pixley, the third place holder in last year's PCI tourney is the Cougar heavyweight entry.

### OSC DANGEROUS

Oregon State could be favored to take the tourney for they have three returning champions and one second place matman returning to this year's fracas.

However, in dual competition this year, the Beavers have run into trouble, especially from defending coast champions, Washington State, who dumped the Beavers 27-6 earlier this season.

Despite this reversal, northern observers feel that Oregon State runs a good chance of upsetting the cart with men like Gary Mc-

# N. Y. Giants Call Cougars' Berry

By Associated Press

Wayne Berry, Washington State's fine halfback, talked with the New York Giant football officials Monday and said he would sign a professional contract with them after the basketball season is over.

Berry, seventh round choice of the Giants in the National Football League draft, is playing with the Pullman Martin-DeSoto team in the AAU basketball tourney which opens in Spokane Wednesday.

Berry, a senior from La Grande, Oregon, conferred with Wellington Mara, the Giants' secretary.

Cain, 115 pounds; Bill Giester, 167; Lew Williams, 191, and Bill Tubbs, 157. McClain, Giester and Williams won titles last year and Tubbs annexed a second place medal. McClain also was named the tourney's outstanding matman. However, Giester and Tubbs were a weight lighter last season.

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