

# Milwaukie Wins Tournament Title

Milwaukie's Mustangs lived up to their top rating in the Associated Press poll by galloping to the state high school basketball championship in the annual prep tourney at McArthur Court Mar. 16-20.

The Wayne Sturdivant coached Mustangs downed Marshfield, 72-54; Gresham, 53-43; Clatskanie, 66-57; and Eugene, 52-44 in succession to grab off the top prize.

Milwaukie showed a well-balanced attack led by guard Ted Miller, forward Bill Fredericks, and center Red Bloedel. The tournament win was a big thing for the Mustangs, who have never before ascended championship heights.

### Eugene Second

Eugene, by virtue of working their way all the way to the finals, was awarded the second place trophy. The Axemen of Hank Kuchera worked their way to the final game by downing Beaverton, 50-42; Corvallis, 49-46; and Madras, 70-55. Losing the championship game was a heart-breaking blow for the Eugene five which had to accept the runner-up award for the second straight year.

The Axemen were defeated by Marshfield, 62-59, in the title battle of the 1953 classic.

Clatskanie's surprising Tigers grabbed off third place in the tourney, the highest they have ever placed before. The Tigers won over Grants Pass, Roosevelt, and Madras. Their only defeat came at the hands of champion Milwaukie in the semi-finals.

### Roosevelt Rallies

Roosevelt, after falling to Clatskanie in the second round, recovered nicely and went on to take fourth place in the tourney. The Teddies won over Ontario, Gresham, and Benson.

Fifth place, the consolation title, went to the defending champion Marshfield Pirates. The Pirates fought back after their opening loss to Milwaukie and walloped Salem, Ontario, and Dallas in quick succession to win the consolation cup.

### All-State Team

At the conclusion of the tournament the coaches of the 16 participating teams selected a first and second all-state team. The first five included Fredericks and Miller of Milwaukie, Don Ainge and Norm Willoughby of Eugene, Lew Harrison of Clatskanie, and Bill Machamer of Madras.

On the second team the coaches named Larry Hermo of Clatskanie, Johnny James of Benson, Bloedel of Milwaukie, Wendy Rasor of Eugene, and Dave Gardner of Gresham.

This year's tournament, financially speaking, was the most successful of them all. During the five days of action well over 60,000 fans poured into McArthur Court to witness the prep cagers in action. This surpassed all previous records for attendance.

The Bradley Braves, despite 12 regular season defeats, shocked the basketball world by marching all the way to the N.C.A.A. basketball finals this season.

The Braves finally met their "waterloo" in the championship game when they were downed by the LaSalle Explorers, 92-76.

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# Duck Nine Hastens Drills As Opening Tussle Nears

By Bob Robinson  
Emerald Sports Editor

The University of Oregon baseball team will open its 1954 season Thursday afternoon, Apr. 1, when they host their traditional rivals, the Oregon State Beavers, in a 3 o'clock tussle at Howe Field.

The Ducks, defending Northern Division champions, have been working out for several weeks now under the direction of Coach Don Kirsch.

Kirsch, starting his eighth season as Oregon head man, has 11 lettermen on hand from last season's powerhouse nine which outlasted Oregon State in a stretch drive for the N. D. title.

Despite the fact that the Ducks lost only a few men from last year's nine, the losses were in key positions and will be keenly felt. Star outfielder, Jim Livesay, catcher Earl Averill, first baseman Don Seigmund, and pitcher Stan Mochowsky all were important men for the Webfoots of one year ago.

Following is a rundown of this year's prospective team members by their positions.

### CATCHERS

Two remaining lettermen will battle it out for the backstopping assignment left open by the departing Averill. Neil Marlett, who was a catching understudy last season, and Don Hedgepeth, who won his award as a first baseman, both have looked fairly good in practices to date and it is still pretty much of a toss-up as to which one will get the starting nod.

### PITCHERS

Letter winners Bill Blodgett, Norm Forbes, and Trenton Hulls form a good nucleus for this year's pitching staff. Forbes was the leading chucker on the 1953 team and seems destined to repeat again this season. Blodgett and Hulls both had their good days now and then last year and it is hoped that they will show vast improvement in the coming campaign.

Backing up these three hurlers will be several newcomers for the Duck squad who will bid for posi-



**DON KIRSCH**, Oregon baseball coach, who is starting his eighth year as Duck mentor. Kirsch was graduated from Oregon in 1943.

tions on the team. Included among these untested rookies are Duane Reeves, Farrell Albright, Bill Garner, Doug Ruhlman, and Gene Lewis. Of these, only Albright saw any action for the Webfoots last season.

### FIRST BASE

Veteran Bob Wagner and Dick Schlosstein, an energetic sophomore, have been staging a two man fight for the first base job with Schlosstein having a slight edge so far. Wagner saw considerable action in his first varsity season last year while Schlosstein was a standout for the 1953 Oregon Frosh team.

### SECOND BASE

Letterman Jimmy Johnson seems to have the keystone sack position pretty well cinched. Johnson and hustling Dick James have been the leading candidates for the spot but James was declared ineligible for scholastic reasons recently and this will probably leave the path open for pint-sized Jimmy. Possible reserve strength will come from sophomore John Keller who may move over from shortstop to help out.

### SHORTSTOP

The shortstopping position offers no problem to Kirsch, what with junior George Shaw back for another campaign and Keller all set for relief duties. Shaw has played outstanding ball for the Ducks for two past seasons and even bigger this season. Keller is an-

other graduate from the 1953 Duckling diamond team.

### THIRD BASE

Strong-armed Pete Williams, a veteran from 1953, is far and away the top contender for the "hot corner." Williams, as good a fielder as can be seen in college circles, needs only to improve his hitting to become a great player. Utility infielder Larry Hibbard may spell Williams in relief.

### OUTFIELD

Returning men in the outfield are letter winners Ron Phillips and Bernie Averill, and varsity reserve Jim Archer. Phillips, the long-hitting slugger from Portland, is just about a cinch to land in one of outfield positions but the battle for the other starting spots has been hot between Archer, Averill, and rookies Jerry Ross and Ron Leland. Averill, who started many games for the Ducks last year, needs to better his batting in order to clinch a opening berth.

From an over-all standpoint the Webfoots look to have the potential for another very good season, and, if certain inexperienced players can come through with top-notch performances in the clutch the Ducks may have a very good chance of retaining their N. D. championship.

### ENGLAND'S STEEPLECHASE

England's Grand National Steeplechase proved it is one of the ruggedest sports in the world in its annual race last Saturday afternoon, Mar. 27. Twenty nine horses started over the rough course but at the end of the grueling grind only nine of these were still competing.

Of those that didn't finish the race, one fell dead from exhaustion and three others had to be put to sleep because of serious injuries.

# Spring Term Mural Games Near Send-off

The spring term intramural sports schedule will be out soon and action is expected to get underway within the next week or two.

The first mural sport of the term will be softball with track, golf, and tennis to follow shortly.

Phi Delta Theta is at the present time holding the IM point parade lead with Hale Kane a close second. Either one of these or any other of the first five could still very possibly grab the championship with a good showing this spring.

Alpha Tau Omega is the defending champion in softball, the Phi Deltas hold the crown in track, Hale Kane is the defending titlist in tennis, and French Hall prevails as the top team in golf.

The intramural department has announced that it intends to set up the softball schedule in similar fashion as it was last year with the teams being divided into separate leagues. A tournament between the league champions will decide the title.

In tennis and golf a single elimination tourney will decide the champion and in track a division into leagues will probably be in effect.

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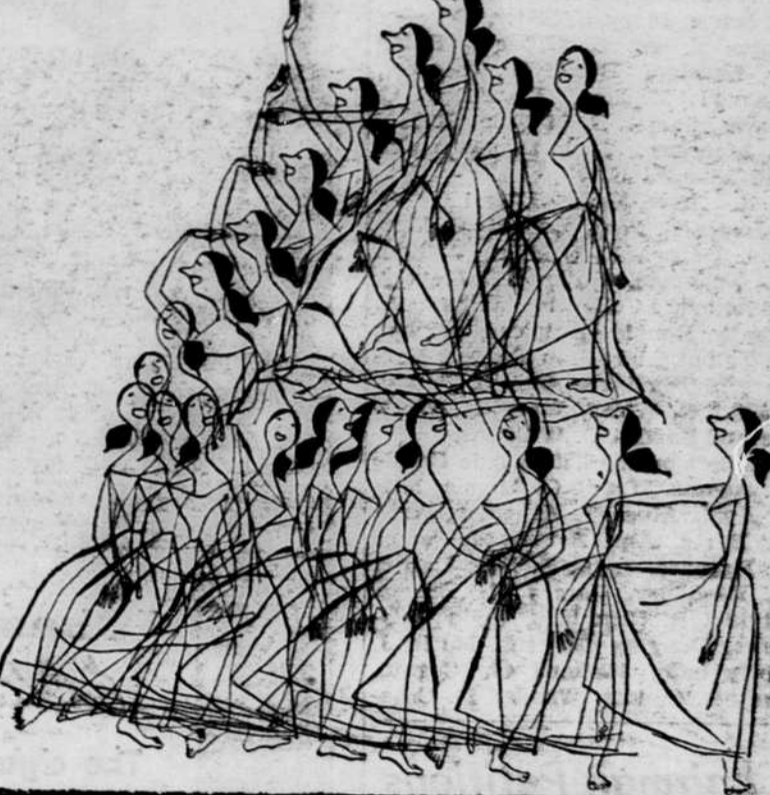
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