

Duck Tracks

By Bob Robinson
Emerald Sports Editor

Well, believe it or not, for the third straight year the Northern Division baseball race has narrowed down to a two way fight for first place between the two Oregon rivals, Oregon's Ducks and Oregon State's Beavers.

It is really quite a coincidence and is a feather in the hat of both coaches, Don Kirsch of the Webfoots and Ralph Coleman of the Orangemen. One thing that we hope doesn't happen, which occurred in both 1952 and 1953, is that the pennant chase doesn't end on the sour note that it did for the losing team in both of these seasons. In 1952 Oregon State edged the Ducks by one-half game and the only thing that kept the Oregons from a tie for the crown was the fact that they had had one more game rained out than the Staters.

In 1953 the situation was just reversed. Oregon State had a one-half game lead over Oregon going into the final four game series between the two schools. When the Ducks won the first encounter by a close margin it gave them a slight lead. Ordinarily OSC would have had three more chances to get back the lead but the men of Ralph Coleman had the misfortune of seeing the final three games of the series bow to the weather. With these washouts went their last hopes of nailing down the ND crown.

At any rate we would like to see a much more satisfying finish to the league race this year. In our opinion the best way to find out just which nine is the best is to have all four games completed and then see who is on top.

A Very Busy Man

Dean Van Leuven, Oregon's football fullback, who has been showing well in spring practice sessions to date, is what we would call a very busy man. As nearly everyone realizes, most of the gridgers cut down on their hours somewhat during spring term because of the extra time that spring grid practice takes. The average player carries between 12 and 16 hours, normally. But not Van Leuven. Dean, who is just as good scholastically as he is athletically, is carrying the unheard amount of 29 hours.

Most people who have absolutely no activities at all seldom take more than 20 or 21 hours during a single term and that keeps them pretty busy. We were just plain flabber-gasted when we heard about Van Leuven's schedule. We wonder how in the world he can possibly keep caught up in all his courses but we certainly admire him for it. Good luck, Dean!

Higdon Still Undeclared

Doyle Higdon, Oregon's sophomore javelin throwing sensation, is still to taste defeat in his specialty this season. Higdon has brought home the blue-ribbon in every meet so far and at the present time looks to be the favorite in the coming ND meet at Seattle next weekend.

Higdon's biggest asset is no doubt his consistency. Doyle has a best throw of 205' 8" and a worst mark of 181' 4". The rest of his meet marks have been distributed between these two throws.

Higdon's biggest threat of the year will be on him this Saturday afternoon in the Ducks' dual meet with OSC. Doyle will be competing against the Beavers' Jerry Church who is another fine spear tosser. Higdon edged Church in a four-way meet in Portland earlier this season but since that time the OSC flinger has been constantly improving. In the OSC-WSC meet last Saturday Church got off a winning throw of 200' 11" which is only a little shy of Higdon's best effort.

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LOTS OF ACTION

Four Sporting Events Set

Athletic teams at the University of Oregon will have a very busy schedule ahead of them this Saturday. All four spring teams will see action in competition against their cross-state rivals, the Oregon State Beavers.

Don Kirsch's Oregon baseball team will travel to Corvallis for the first game in an important four tilt series which will determine the Northern Division championship. The Ducks are trailing the Beavers by one full game and are hoping to get off to a good start in their quest for their second ND crown in a row.

Oregon will have to win three of the four games to come out on top. A split in the four games would leave the Beavers with the one game lead and the championship.

Forbes vs. Wellman

Norm Forbes will probably get the starting pitching assignment against OSC. His mound foe for the Orangemen of Ralph Coleman will more than likely be big Norb Wellman, the strong-armed veteran.

Bill Bowerman's Duck and field team will also move to Corvallis for their annual dual track meet with the runners of Hal Moe. If the Ducks can come out on top they will sew up the ND dual meet title and will be given the favorite's role in the coming Northern Division championship meet at Seattle next weekend.

The Beavers have only won one dual meet this far from a conference foe, that being Idaho. The Staters have lost to both Washington and Washington State. On the other hand, Oregon holds victories over both the Cougars and Huskies and has recorded a much more decisive win over Idaho than did the Beavers.

Beavers Lack Depth

Oregon State is expected to put up a good fight in many events but the all-around depth of the Ducks is supposed to offer much too much of an obstacle for the Corvallis ovalmen to overcome.

While the baseball and track



Sid Milligan

teams are competing in Corvallis the other two spring sport teams, golf and tennis, will be hosting Beaver teams in matches at Eugene.

Sid Milligan's Oregon golfers, who remain undefeated in North-

ern Division action. The Webfoots had a tough time in downing OSC, 14½-12½, in the two teams' first meet at Corvallis but the Ducks hope to win by a more convincing score on their home course, the Eugene Country club.

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