

Duck Tracks

By GORDON RICE
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Looking ahead to Rose Bowl time, it appears that the Oregon Ducks face an almost impossible task in their fight to get to Pasadena on New Year's Day, as many sports writers, national polls, and rival coaches predicted. Their defeat last week at the hands of the alert Indian team from Palo Alto considerably dimmed the hopes of Duck followers who were counting on George Shaw and Co. to tumble Coast conference opponents one after the other after all the pre-season ballyhoo on the team came out.

Coach Len Casanova wasn't nearly as optimistic as people thought he should be, however, when he said that he had a lack of experienced help to back up the front line. He said that probably Oregon wasn't good enough to survive through the rugged Coast schedule which continually murders Northern teams which are outmanned by the bigger California schools year after year. It looks like he was right.



Kip Taylor
Beat Better Than UW

This isn't an apology for the Oregon Ducks because they don't need one. But a Northern Division team is lucky when it comes up with one win a year from the California schools, and 90 percent of the time the losses are due to that big factor in football—manpower. Oregon's game with Stanford was in the other 10 percent category, since the Ducks had the Indians outgained in every department except the score column. It was just one of those days, but it still went into the loss column of the league standings.

A look at the facts should convince anyone but a dreamer that it will take some kind of gridiron miracle to enable any Northern team to get to the Rose Bowl this year, something that hasn't happened since Oregon State beat Duke in the transplanted Bowl game of 1942. That's a long drought for Northern teams, and it probably won't end this year.

Let's take a look at the record so far. The four California schools have compiled a record of seven wins against one defeat so far this season on two successive Saturdays. To be sure, Stanford's two wins have been by the narrowest of margins, and UCLA has been the only team to really look impressive so far.

Northwest Teams' Record Only Fair

But the five Northwest teams in comparison have run up a record of only four to five defeats, and two of the wins were over Idaho by Oregon teams. In general, the Northern teams' play has been so spotty it's hard to tell exactly what may happen before the end of the season.

Saturday's lone conference game in Portland in which Oregon State's improved Beavers face the hopped-up Huskies from Washington should go a long way in determining just how good a team each school has this season. The Beavers, although unimpressive in their 13-0 win over Idaho last weekend, are much deeper than last season and, for the first time since 1951, Coach Kip Taylor has material enough to give the team strength enough to face the bigger schools for 60 minutes and come out still kicking.

Oregon Picked to Beat Utah

Elsewhere on the coast Oregon shouldn't have much trouble with Utah, but the Ducks will be pointing to a big game with California at Berkeley the following week. Since Rose Bowl predictions are currently favoring the Bears or USC, which the Ducks take on the following Saturday, Oregon will be using this contest as a practice session for the important games coming up.

Right now it looks like UCLA will repeat as conference champs, but the season stretches out a long way in front of everyone yet. As previously mentioned, both California and USC look like top contenders and, since the Bruins will be ineligible for the Roses this year, the Bear-Trojan game at the halfway mark of the season could be the clincher. However, we aren't discounting our own Oregon Ducks just yet. Not by a long shot. But it's not going to be easy.

Ducks Work on Attack, Defense for Redskins

Coach Len Casanova ran his Oregon football team through offensive and defensive drills Thursday in preparation for Saturday's game with Utah on Hayward field.

The Ducks are scheduled to go through a series of loosening-up workouts this afternoon, and will work on plays, kickoffs, kickoff returns, conversions, punting and other non-contact exercises.

Lineup Indefinite

The Oregon lineup for the 1:30 p.m. game is still in doubt at several positions, as a result of injuries in the last two games. Quarterback George Shaw is not likely to see action at all, although Casanova said he would not know definitely until sometime today. Shaw re-injured a pulled leg muscle against Stanford last week.

If Shaw does not play, Johnny Keller, who has played excellent ball in the last two games, will take over at quarterback.

Jasper McGee, who started at fullback against Idaho and was injured in the first half, may see some action, according to Casanova. A rib cartilage separation had healed sufficiently by the middle of the week to allow him to get in some practice. It is likely, however, that Dean Van Leuven will start the game at fullback.

Mobley Doubtful

End Dick Mobley, who had been bruised back muscles earlier in the week, is another doubtful performer. Sophomore Phil McHugh has been working out in Mobley's position all week and will probably start there.

A number of other players, including Jack Patera, Ron Pheister and Wally Russell, came up with lesser injuries



GEORGE SHAW
May Miss Utah Game

during the week, but none of them are expected to miss the Utah tilt.

Track Coach Bill Bowerman scouted Utah for the last two weeks, and reported that the Redskins' inconsistency in the two games made them a confusing team to scout.

Utah Winless

Utah lost its season opener to Washington 7-6 after nearly upsetting the Huskies, and then collapsed in the second half last weekend as they lost to Arizona 54-20 after leading 20-13 at the half.

Bowerman reported that the Utes looked terrible in the first half against Washington, but recovered and played good football in the second half. He said that they should have scored more than they did against the Huskies.

The situation was just reversed in the Arizona game, however, as Utah looked very good in the first half and then folded completely after the intermission.

Utes Good Passers

Bowerman pointed out that the Utes have a good passing team and always have a high-scoring outfit. Utah has 20 lettermen, but only one regular, back from last year's Skyline conference champions. Coach Jack Curtice lost 17 lettermen, including Quarterback Don Rydalc, one of the top passers in the country last year, and End Morris Nelson, Rydalc's favorite target.

Bowerman reported that the Utes had a number of good backs and some good linemen. He was especially high on Center Carl Poglajen, a two-year veteran playing his first year as a regular.

Halfback Max Pierce is the tenth ranking receiver in the country, and Quarterback Dave Dungan in the 13th ranking passer in the nation, according to the latest NCAA statistics. Dungan has completed 12 out of 19 passes for 153 yards and one touchdown, and Pierce has caught six passes for 139 yards and one touchdown.

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