

Trio of ND Squads Set Opening Action

Northern Division basketball teams swing into their first full weekend of play Friday and Saturday nights with Washington State playing Oregon State at Corvallis and Washington hosting Idaho at Seattle.

Three of the four conference clubs will be tasting their first action of the young 1955 ND season with only the Cougars having already played counting games. Coach Jack Friel's team split with Oregon in a two-game series at Pullman Monday and Tuesday nights.

Oregon State will be favored in the pair of games against WSC on the strength of its 68-48 pre-conference win over the Cougars last week in the ND classic at Seattle. Washington State was far off form in its shooting that night, however, and came back to lick Idaho the second night of the holiday tourney.

The Cougars have a much better season's record than the Beavers going into the weekend's clashes. Splitting the pair with Oregon this week gave the Cougars a 7-4 won-lost mark against a so-so 4-6 record posted by Slats Gill's Orangemen in pre-conference play.

Beavers Top Defenders

Oregon State will have the edge of playing on its home court, however, and the Cougars will be facing the nation's number one team in defense according to last week's NCAA figures which place the Beavers at the top of country's teams in points allowed per game.

Even with the return of towering Center Wade Halbrook to the Beaver squad after the big Swede solved his scholastic difficulties, Gill is expected to start sophomore Phil Shadoin at center. The 7' Corvallis boy looked good in starting roles in late December and will hold down the post position for OSC at least until Halbrook has time to get in shape, with the big All-Coaster slated to see some action this weekend.

The rest of the Beaver lineup is expected to consist of top rebounder Jay Dean and hook shot artist Tony Vlastelica at the forward spots with Ron Robins and sophomore Bob Allord at guards. With Shadoin, this quintet will average a staggering 6' 5".

Friel is expected to counter with his usual first platoon of Ron Bennink and Larry Beck at forwards, Bill Rehder at center, and Bob Klöck and Al Perry at the guard posts. His second platoon of Doug King, Bruce Olson, Al Kamps, Jack Garton and Ron



RON BENNINK, Washington State's all-Northern Division forward, will play four games in the next five days in the Willamette Valley as the Cougars start their annual "suicide swing" against Oregon State and Oregon.

Foisy will probably also see plenty of action.

WSC Lacks Height

All-Conference Bennink was the main factor in the Cougars' play Monday and Tuesday as he scored 33 points in the two games. He and Rehder will be primary WSC threats against the Beavers. Lack of a big man, even though only Foisy of the first ten stands under 6', might hurt the Washington State club against the tall Beavers.

In Seattle, Idaho's inconsistent but hard-working Vandals square off against a highly-touted Washington Husky team that is tabbed as a possible successor to OSC's ND crown. Idaho has both a new coach, Harlan Hodges, and a new spirit, but so far have won only three games in nine tries this season as against the Huskies' 6-3 record.

Washington will be heavily favored because of its 77-57 lac-

king of Idaho in the ND classic, a home-court advantage, the better record so far this season and a definite height advantage. A lack of Idaho depth may also play a big part in the series since the Vandal starting five has had to carry the scoring load in every game so far.

Even though the Vandals broke their own school scoring record three games in a row, topping the performance with a 100-70 win over Montana last month, they will be facing the highest-scoring team in the league. Washington, led by the play of Dean Parsons at center, has averaged 70.1 points per game in nine contests.

Both starting lineups have a lot of scoring potential plus speed and wide-open, high-scoring games will probably be seen by onlookers at Washington's Edmundsen pavilion. Fans will also be treated to a meeting of the conference's two highest-scoring players, Parsons and Idaho's Harlan Melton, both averaging over 18 points per game.

Husky Coach Tippy Dye will probably string along on his usual five of Parsons, Jim Coshow and Karl Voegtlin at forwards, and Doyle Perkins and Jerry Johnson at guards. Hodges will likely counter with Jim Sather at center, Jay Buhler and Melton at forwards, and Bill Bauscher and Bob Falash at guards.

Following the weekend's activity, Washington State comes to Eugene Monday and Tuesday to play its sixth game in eight nights, the final pair with Oregon for the regular conference season. The other ND clubs take a week's rest until next weekend when Oregon goes to Moscow to play the Vandals in a pair and Washington visits OSC at Corvallis in what could be a big factor in deciding the title chase.

EMERALD Sports

Merger of Hoop Loops Set on Coast in 1956

Northern Division basketball will come to the end of a 33-year split with California in conference competition next year when the two divisions combine for a round-robin hoop schedule.

After informal competition for almost 20 years between the five Northwest schools, they combined into a Northern Division in 1923, with Idaho winning the first championship with Washington. In 1928 the four major California schools started their own Southern Division with USC beating Washington for the first Coast championship.

The merging of the Northern and Southern Divisions for basketball is in keeping with a new PCC policy of round-robin competition between all nine schools on the coast. A complete round-robin schedule will also be in-

itiated in Coast football in 1956.

Coast Interest Sought

The move was made in the hope of getting more interest coast-wide in basketball. School athletic representatives felt that the Coast's split into two divisions was old-fashioned since it was the only league in the country so divided.

A tentative schedule calls for eight of the nine Coast clubs to play a 16-game schedule, the same number as in the present ND schedule. Teams will play a seven-nine home and away schedule in alternate years except for Washington, which will always play a balanced eight-eight schedule.

All teams except Washington will play a home-and-home series with their nearest rival each year while playing home-and-away-series with their other rivals in alternate years. Thus Oregon will play two games at home each with California, USC and WSC, while traveling to Idaho, Stanford, Washington and UCLA.

Rivalries to Continue

Oregon will continue to play a home-and-home series with Oregon State as will Idaho with WSC, California with Stanford, and USC with UCLA. Traveling time for the Ducks will still be the same, since they will fly in trips to California schools.

With the advent of the new coast schedule, old division records will be a thing of the past. So, too, will be records of division champions which has been led by California in the Southern Division and Washington in the North.

Loscutoff On Top In Division Scoring

Oregon's Jim Loscutoff, who alternates at center and forward, jumped into the Northern Division scoring lead after the Ducks' games with Washington State last weekend.

With only two ND games played, Loscutoff has scored 34 points, one more than Ron Bennink of WSC, and two more than Howard Page of Oregon.

The top 10 scorers follow:

	G	Fg	Ft	Pf	Tp	Ave.
Loscutoff, Oregon	2	13	8	8	34	17.0
Bennink, WSC	2	10	13	7	33	16.5
Page, Oregon	2	12	8	4	32	16.0
Rehder, WSC	2	8	6	8	22	11.0
Beck, WSC	2	4	7	6	15	7.5
Kamps, WSC	2	6	3	2	15	7.5
Anderson, Oregon	2	5	4	7	14	7.0
McHugh, Oregon	2	6	0	1	12	6.0
Bell, Oregon	2	4	3	7	11	5.5
Ross, Oregon	2	3	4	6	10	5.0

Oregon Prepares For WSC Series

Oregon's improved basketball team was busy preparing for their second Northern Division hoop series today. Coach Bill Borchert readied his squad for the invasion of Washington State Monday and Tuesday.

By a quirk in the ND schedule, Oregon will have to face the Cougars for their second pair of Conference games within eight days. The Ducks split with Coach Jack Friel's team in Pullman last Monday and Tuesday in the division opener.

Transfer Guard Welcomed

Borchert welcomed the addition of transfer LeRoy Nelson to the squad this week and the 6' sophomore may be just the man the lanky Webfoot coach needs to replace injured Guard Dick James, who was lost to the squad for the season last week with a recurrence of a wrist injury.

Nelson was an all-stater during his high school days in Washington and the fine shooting of the newcomer drew praise from Borchert in Wednesday's workouts. After taking a rest Wednesday, Oregon's front line players were back in harness Thursday drilling on mistakes exhibited earlier in the week.

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Desk Editor: Chuck Mitchellmore.
Staff: Gordon Rice, Jerry Claussen, Jack Marsh.

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