

## Varsity Netters Eye Weather, First Matches

Oregon's varsity tennis team, potentially a top contender for the Northern Division title, were hoping for better weather and a bigger turnout this week as Coach Hilbert Lee's squad began preparing for their first match, April 1.

The squad has been working out for about a month during the unusually dry Oregon weather, and Lee says prospects for the team look good. The courtmen will see their first regular action of the season after spring vacation when they go to Portland to play Reed and Portland U. April 1 and 2.

Lee reported that the team will play practice matches with non-squad members including some graduate students and others next week to get some competition under their belts. Northern Division action for the netters will open in Eugene April 22 when the perennial conference champions, Washington, comes to town.

The Duck team is expected to be one of the strongest in several years, as four of the 1954 squad's five top men are back from the team that finished third behind Washington and Oregon State last year.

Bob Baker and Dick Hamilton, two-year lettermen, and Don Bonime and Dick Gray, one-year numeral wearers, are the quartet back from last year. All have improved, says Lee, but will probably take a back seat to Ron Carlson, a transfer from Portland U. and one of the best players in the state last spring.

Two sophomores, Jim Larpen-teur and Ron Clark, will also make bids for the varsity net team, and Lee has hopes of getting more underclassmen out for the team to build for the future. Oregon is the only team in ND history besides Washington to win a dual match championship, having taken the title in 1937.

Prospects for a Frosh team also look good this season, as at least eight former high school stars will be working out. The Frosh will be playing several matches this season and have a pair scheduled with Corvallis high school. Lee is lining up others with the Oregon State Rooks, Roseburg high school and others in Portland.

## Ducks Take Outside Drill

Oregon's varsity baseball team took its third outdoors workout Wednesday as the squad continued to get in shape for the first games of the season against Stanford March 21-22.

The Stanford games are part of a swing through northern California that will knock the lid off Oregon's baseball season. The two games at Palo Alto will be followed by a pair against the San Jose State Spartans at San Jose March 23-25, and a single encounter against California at Berkeley March 26.

**Ducks Open With OSC**  
The Ducks won't open the Northern Division season until April 15-16 when they play Oregon State in a home-and-home series.

So far, practice sessions have been confined largely to the unfinished area in the Physical Education building. The team has had some hitting practice in batting cages. Only one outdoor in-field workout has been held.

Coach Don Kirsch reports that the squad is rounding into good physical condition despite the poor weather that is keeping it indoors, and should be ready for game conditions practice when the weather clears.

**Many Starters Back**  
Most of last year's starters are returning, so nearly all positions are set with the exception of pitching. Only Norm Forbes, Bill Blodgett and Bill Garner are returning from last year's mound staff, and Forbes is the only sure starter. The righthander from Vancouver, B.C., led the Northern Division in pitching and hitting in 1954.

Thirdbaseman Pete Williams and Outfielder George Shaw are this year's co-captains. They were elected at the end of last season.

The University of Michigan's football stadium at Ann Arbor is the largest college-owned field in the United States, seating 97,000.

# St. Helens, Cleveland Gain Tourney Berths

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

St. Helens and Cleveland of Portland Tuesday won berths in the state high school basketball tournament to be played March 15-19 at Eugene.

St. Helens, the only undefeated class A team in the state, won the district 14 position by downing Vernonia 65-30. It was the 21st straight win for St. Helens, which was ranked fifth in this week's Associated Press prep poll.

Cleveland, No. 6 in the poll,

won its berth by capturing the Portland League championship with a 45-31 victory over Lincoln.

Grant's 69-62 win over Jefferson, ranked eighth, threw the race for second place in the standings and Portland's other berth in the tournament into a three-way tie.

Jefferson and Franklin will meet at Lincoln high school Saturday night in the opening of the playoff to determine the Portland League's second entry. Grant drew a bye and will play the Jefferson-Franklin winner at Lincoln Tuesday night.

Here's what happened in other class A district playoffs Tuesday night.

**District 1—Baker whipped La Grande 49-44 for the west subdistrict title and Ontario defeated Vale 51-49 in the east sub-district. The two winners now meet for the title and tourney berth.**

**District 2—Milton-Freewater took a one-game lead in its two-of-three series with Hood River by edging the Hood River squad 43-42. The two teams meet again Friday night.**

**District 9—Hillsboro advanced another step toward the state tournament by defeating Forest Grove 50-35 in the double-elimination playoff. Once-beaten Beaverton kept its hopes alive by**

eliminating Sherwood 65-46. Hillsboro needs only a victory over Beaverton Friday night to win the title. Beaverton was ranked tenth in the poll.

**District 10—Astoria, ranked ninth, suffered its first playoff loss at the hands of Seaside 54-43 in the double elimination tournament at Tillamook. Warrenton eliminated Tillamook 51-44.**

**District 11—South Salem won the first of a scheduled three-game playoff for the sub-district 1 title, defeating North Salem 46-40. Winner of the series will face the sub-district 2 champion which is being decided in a double-elimination round.**

**District 12 — Milwaukie, defending state champion and No. 2 in the poll, and Oregon City posted first round victories in a double-elimination playoff. Milwaukie beat West Linn 78-53 and Oregon City topped Canby 80-72.**

**District 13—Portland's two Catholic schools, Central and Columbia Prep, shaded opponents in single elimination playoff. The Preppers defeated Gresham 57-56 and Central eliminated Parkrose, 59-56.**

There was no action in districts 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8, leaving a number of schools idle, including Medford, ranked first in the poll; Eugene, third; North Bend, fourth, and Albany, seventh.

## Basich Welcomes Duckling Hopefuls

Coach Bob Basich counted noses at Tuesday's Frosh baseball workout and found 38 prospects to work with. The Ducklings meet again today at 4 p.m. in the Frosh baseball room.

The yearlings will get their first practice of the year Saturday morning at 10:30 in the unfinished area of the PE building.

Those working out, by position, include:

**Pitcher —** Don Delbon, Don Lane, John McCall, Ron Whitaker and Jay Whipple.

**Catcher —** Ron Creps, Ron Dodge, John Eskildsen, Jerry McCabe and Dan McNeil.

**Infield —** Lee Bumford, Terry Burke, Bob Cellars, Don Dexter, Dale Dickey, Bob Faris, Ed Forbes, Wimp Hastings, Dick Jarvis, Don Lindland, Jerry Maule, Clark Miller, LeRoy Phelps, Jim Pifer, Freeman Squires, Don Tonole, George Twidwell, Dave Wanaka, Jim White, Gene Weeks and J. C. Wheeler.

**Outfield —** Jim Barnett, Jerry Gregg, Jim Hilands, Paul Kratzke, George Simpson, Jerry Urness and Jerry Waldrop.

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