

# EMERALD Sports

## Duck Tracks

By Allen Johnson  
Emerald Sports Writer

Northern Division tennis this spring, as in countless other seasons, can be summed up chiefly in three words—University of Washington. The powerful Huskies have been the dominating team for so long that they are always accorded the top spot before the net season even opens.

This year, of course, the Huskies' main reason for success is Bill Quillian, nationally-ranked singles and doubles star who has been in Husky togs for three years, and has come back to the lakeside campus in Seattle with the singles crown for three years.

With the exception of 1944 and 1945, when the war ruled out competition, the Huskies have won every dual match and tournament title since 1937. In that year, Oregon won the dual match championship and Oregon State captured the tournament laurels.

### Tichy Sees UO Improvement

Quillian and Doyle Perkins, the basketball player, took the doubles crown last year and are expected to repeat now in 1955. The Huskies have produced some fine talent in their dynasty of champions, including top-ranking players such as Quillian, Jim Brink, Jack Lowe and Don Flye.

Last season saw an inexperienced Oregon squad fall short of the division title on the Eugene courts, but this campaign should show a great deal of improvement. This was emphasized last weekend by veteran Portland university net mentor Mike Tichy, who saw great improvement over last season and forecast a good season for Hilbert Lee's team.

Where in 1954 there was only one letterman available for tennis, this year there are four, as well as a top transfer in Ron Carlson. Bob Baker, Dick Gray, Don Bonime and Dick Hamilton all have accumulated college experience and it should prove very helpful.

### Neer Would Have Helped

The Ducks could have had quite a team if Jack Neer, in school for one term briefly as a lower-classman, had stayed on and played for Oregon. Neer is rated with Quillian as the Northwest standout.

On the major league baseball front, the latest word from the front office of the pennant-hungry Milwaukee Braves reveals plans to move the left-center and right field fences in 15 feet to provide a more tempting target for the home run bats of Ed Mathews, Joe Adcock, Bobby Thompson, Andy Pafko and Co. This is just one more example of how far the baseball management will go to coddle the hitters while the pitchers get nothing but setbacks.

This same situation took place in Pittsburgh when heavy-hitting Hank Greenberg, now Cleveland general manager, joined the team. With Greenberg and Kiner both right-handed power hitters, what could the Pirate bigwigs do but erect a temporary fence about 30 feet short of the true barrier to give more room for four-base hits.

### It Works Both Ways

Unfortunately, these rearrangements of outfield fences have usually worked to the disadvantage of the home team, as the visiting teams naturally can take advantage of the shortened walls also. And another interesting aspect of it all is that it is usually the second-division clubs that try to do this, in almost desperate attempts to beef up their batting lineup. Now the high-ranking Braves will try it too. If it works to their advantage, things will be rosy in the Wisconsin city, but if not, even the rabid Milwaukee fans might be upset more than a little.

And why is it that baseball fields have never been standardized as to outfield distances? The other measurements on the diamond are, and almost all other sports (possibly excepting golf) have uniform boundaries. These ideas of ideal ball parks have been proposed but never accepted at all. Thus it is that we have 450 flyouts to center field in New York while 270-foot drive in the same park's left field is good for a home run.

## Young Golfers Eye 'Masters' With Confidence

By HUGH FULLERTON, Jr.

AUGUSTA, Ga. (AP)—The Augusta National Course probably will be tougher than ever when the 19th Masters Golf Tournament opens Thursday, but you'd never know it from the attitude of the younger players.

The kids who have been taking courses apart from California to Florida all winter aren't a bit afraid of the big rolling course and the giant greens that have stopped a good many fine golfers in the past.

Most of the alterations this year on the course which Bob Jones laid out more than 20 years ago were for the benefit of spectators, but a couple of holes have been toughened up, too.

The big difference this year seems to be that the young players aren't worried about such things, nor about the reputations of the great golfers who make up most of the Masters field.

Youngsters like Mike Souchak, Billy Maxwell, Gene Littler, Bob Toski, Jay Hebert and Arnold Palmer have been winning or coming close to it all winter. And while they're modest in their public remarks, it's evident that they think they can do just as well here.

They no longer consider themselves as hopeful challengers to Ben Hogan, Sam Snead, Lloyd Mangrum, Cary Middlecoff and the others who dominated tournament golf for a long stretch. The 25-year-olds are on top now and they intend to stay there.

If they're right, this tournament should reverse the trend of recent years in the Masters. From the first tournament in 1934 up through 1942, only two players over 30 had won the Masters and the average age of the winners was 29.7. In nine post-war tournaments, no player under 30 has won, with the age level creeping up around 40 in the past few years.

Hogan, back to try for his third Masters title and to get even with Snead for last year's playoff defeat, now is 43 and Snead 41. The other past winners who are here are mostly in the same age bracket.

City College of New York is the only basketball team in history to win both the NCAA and NIT championships in one season. In 1951 CCNY beat Bradley in the finals of both tournaments to win the two titles.

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## Ashburn Said Most Durable

By JACK HAND

NEW YORK (AP)—Don't snicker when they call Richie Ashburn the new "Iron Man." The Philadelphia Phillies' whip-pet center fielder may turn out to be the most durable athlete in National league history.

Nobody ever confuses little Richie with muscle men like big Ted Kluszewski of Cincinnati or Gil Hodges of Brooklyn. He's built more like the boy who tops the pyramid of strong men in a carnival act. But Ashburn stays in the lineup day after day while stronger men rest their aching bones.

### Ashburn 92 Games Away

At the close of the 1954 season, Ashburn had played 730 consecutive games since June 7, 1950. The National league record is 822, set by Gus Suhr, Pittsburgh first baseman, from 1931 to 1937. With 92 games to go, Ashburn should beat Suhr's mark by Aug. 1, barring injury.

The major league record of 2130, set by the late Lou Gehrig of the New York Yankees from 1925 to 1939, is beyond reach of Ashburn or any other present day major leaguer.

Ashburn was talking about his chance at Suhr's record one day at the Phils' training camp at Clearwater, Fla.

### String Holds Up

"When I came up in 1948 I didn't think I'd ever get to play 154 games in the big leagues, let alone set any record," he said. "Now that I'm getting so close, I'd like to get it."

"There are times when I should have been pulled out of the lineup but I was lucky enough to stay in. Maybe my luck will hold out this year, too."

Ashburn played 117 games in '48 when he was named "Rookie of the Year" although he missed 37 games because of a broken hand. In 1949, he played every game but missed a few in mid-season of '50 when he was benched. The string started June 7, 1950. It almost ended last August due to a pulled muscle but a three-day gap in the schedule saved Ashburn.

## Basich Names Starting Nines For Twin Bill

Oregon's Frosh baseballers will unwrap the new season Saturday with a doubleheader against the Cleveland high school Indians on the Duckling field. First game is scheduled to start at 1:30, and both contests will go seven innings.

Coach Bob Basich named two complete lineups to start each game, and plans to call on Don Lane to hurl the first tilt and Ron Whittaker to go to the mound in the second.

Backing up Lane in the first game will be Dave Wanaka at first base, Wimp Hastings at second, Bob Cellers on third, and Jim Pifer at short. Ron Dodge will be behind the plate, and Ron Creps, Jerry Waldrop and Jerry Urness will patrol the outfield.

The second game will find Jerry McCabe catching, John Eskildson at first, Terry Burke at second, Don Dexter in the "hot corner," and Jim White taking shortstop duties. George Simpson in left, LeRoy Phelps in center and Dick Jarvis in right, round out the second-game starters.

Jarvis, Dale Dickey and Clark Miller can substitute in the infield, and John McCall and Jim Sittser will do the "fireman" chores for Whittaker.

The Ducklings played a full-scale intrasquad game Wednesday, and will taper off tonight and tomorrow with lighter drills and movies.

## 'Hurricane' Jackson To Meet Challenger

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Tommy (Hurricane) Jackson, a heavyweight title contender from Far Rockaway, N.Y., has signed to meet Harold Johnson, the No. 1 ranking light heavyweight challenger, in a 10-round bout here May 6, promoter Herman Taylor announced Wednesday.

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