

EMERALD Sports

Duck Tracks

By Allen Johnson
Emerald Sports Writer

Oregon basketball fans will be in for a strange sight next fall when they drop in at McArthur court for a Duck home game. For no longer will the familiar keyhole shape be seen under each basket. Twelve-foot foul lanes, twice the old distance, will be in effect in collegiate basketball as they have been for several seasons in the pro league.

The rule makers of the NCAA—famed for tampering with free throws—have decreed that the shift to wider foul lanes is necessary to reduce the domination of the tall men on the game. In this respect, they at least have the best interests of the sport at heart, but it remains to be seen if a mere six-foot extension will make up for such staggering height advantages such as possessed by Swede Halbrook, Bill Russell, etc.

Probably one thing the new regulation will wipe out is the quick tip-in on missed free throws. This might have cost Oregon many a basket this past season, with Jim Loscutoff a past master at this maneuver. But in the professional game, the effect of the wider lanes is to speed up play, keep the center cleared and force the larger players to become more mobile.

Top Basketball in Pro Playoff

Last weekend's championship series for the National Basketball Association title between Fort Wayne and Syracuse was basketball at its best, with the Syracuse team finally taking the series four games to three. Curiously enough, the Nats won all their games on the Syracuse floor, while the Pistons were also able to win only at home. The losers fell victim to a jinx which has whipped them 27 straight times on the Syracuse court.

In the final game, which went to the Nats by a 109-104 count, such sights as 6' 9" Dolph Schayes sinking 30-foot set shots and little guards driving through the forest of big men cracked the century mark, it must be remembered that the pros play 12-minute quarters.

Arguments directed against the pro game have accused the teams of relaxing on defense, not scrapping all-out on rebounds, and generally performing in a listless, spiritless way. While the teams have on unwritten law against the use of the zone defense, these final games showed no lack of hustle and drive on the part of any of the players. The occurrence of several fights on the floor illustrated this.

Ex-Northwesters Star

Quite a few ex-Coast and Northwest stars were active in the playoff series, as well as in regular season action. Red Rocha, an All-American center at Oregon State in 1947, held down a forward spot for the Nationals, while ex-Washington great Bob Houbregs was a top substitute for the Pistons.

Oregon's Bob Peterson, playing less than half the season, showed up well for the New York team and Dwight Morrison of Idaho showed his all-Northern Division form as a member of the Boston Celtics.

The pros have pioneered one phase of basketball with their wide foul lanes. Now, thanks to the NCAA, amateur fives will have their chance at this regulation. It will be just one more interesting addition to the '56 hoop season.

New Life for Athletics?

Not to disappoint some 32,000 opening-day fans, Kansas City's brand new Athletics managed to chalk up a win over the Detroit Tigers in big-league action. But will the fans "love us in September as they do in April?" to quote a Milwaukee Brave pitcher when the Tribe first moved from Boston. This could apply to Lou Boudreau's A's as well.

The third such switch in three years, it has promised new life for the American League. Baltimore made a successful start last year with the old St. Louis Brown team in every way but in the standings. They finished seventh, just above the team that now represents Kansas City.

However, anything might happen. Milwaukee, as Boston, had finished sixth in 1952. But the switch to the Wisconsin city turned them into a scrapping pennant contender when their young players began to develop. The Athletics have many young players too, and if Bobby Shantz regains the pitching magic that won him 24 games in 1952, things will be O.K. in K.C.

Gridgers Start Spring Practice In Monday Drill

Footballs will fly again Monday as 65 grid prospects start spring practice under the guidance of Head Coach Len Casanova. Two-hour workouts will continue five a week until May 14, when the annual Spring Sports Day intrasquad game will climax the drills.

Twelve halfbacks, six fullbacks and five quarterbacks are expected to respond to the call. Only three of these are lettermen, Larry Rose won his monogram at fullback, and Tom Crabtree and Dick James won theirs at halfback, though both are listed as quarterback prospects.

Out of thirteen end hopefuls, only Phil McHugh has won a varsity numeral, but four transfers have bolstered the situation. Bruce Brenn, George Slender, Pete Swanberg and Bill Tarrow were all highly rated junior college wing men.

Eight out of the twenty-nine linemen are letter-winners. Line mentor Vern Sterling can build his forward wall around stalwarts like Chuck Austin, Lon Stiner, Harry Johnson, Jim Potter, Reanous Cochrane, Jerry Nelson, Art Weber and Nick Markulis. Transfer linemen include Jack Pockock and Jack Hilfiker.

Letterman Quarterback John Keller, currently handling short-stop duties for the Duck baseball squad, will not work with the team.

AF Gunners Shoot Today

With an eye toward national prizes, Oregon's AFROTC rifle team will fire its rounds at 1 p.m. this afternoon in the annual Secretary of the Air Force postal competition.

Tentatively slated to go to the line for the Webfoot squad are Rich Buffington, Gary Alden, Richard Ramsey, Don Tonole and Mike McKenzie, team captain. Stan Hodges, Owen Watkins and Mike Smith are listed as alternates.

The matches will be on a 40-round, four-position basis with final judging by the National Rifle Association in Washington, D.C. All AFROTC units in the United States are eligible to enter two teams of five each, according to Sergeant Busch, Oregon coach.

In the recent sub-area 3 competition with Oregon State, Willamette and Portland university at Corvallis, the Oregon riflemen finished second behind OSC. Next scheduled competition is the regional shoot-off among all Pacific coast AFROTC teams, slated for later this month.

The Oregon rifle squad, consisting of top Army and Air Force ROTC cadets placed second in Willamette Valley Gun Club league competition completed recently.

Ex-Duck New Coach For Pendleton Eleven

PENDLETON (AP)—The new head football coach at the high school here is Dale Warberg, 28, a former University of Oregon player.

Warberg, who coached last year at Grant Union high at John Day, also will aid in some other sports. In basketball he succeeds Wayne Scott, who will begin full-time academic work.

Relays Attract Prep Cindermen

Continuing rains will not cause cancellation of the 18th annual Hayward relays, Oregon's big high school cinder carnival, although the competition scheduled for Friday and Saturday, may be moved to the intramural field, according to Ray Hendrickson, meet director.

A field of 79 teams has established a new record for entries, and more than 1000 prep cindermen are expected to be on hand for action in four classes.

Henley, five-time champion in class C, and Estacada, last year's B titlist, will begin defense of their crowns at 12:30 p.m. Friday with field competition. Running events in the small school divisions begins at 2 p.m.

Medford's strong Black Toronado thinclads, who have compiled a 10 for 13 record in going after the top Metropolitan award, will try to take up where they left off Saturday morning at 10:30 in field event competition.

A two-time champion in class A, Marshfield heads up its division, which also begins Saturday morning. Running action is slated to start 12:30 p.m. Saturday for the A and Metro classes.

Schools entered in the record-breaking field:

Metropolitan (17) — Benson, Cleveland, Eugene, Franklin, Grant, Grants Pass, Jefferson of Portland, Klamath Falls, Lincoln, Medford, Roseburg, Roosevelt, North Salem, South Salem, Springfield, Vancouver (Wash.), and Washington.

Class A (15)—Albany, Ashland, Bend, Corvallis, Cottage Grove, Crater, Prineville, McMinnville, Marshfield, North Bend, Oswego, Redmond, St. Helens, Sweet Home and Lebanon.

Class B (22)—Bandon, Cascade Union, Clatskanie, Central Union, Douglas, Coquille, Eagle Point, Estacada, Elmira, Myrtle Point, Oakridge, Pleasant Hill, Stayton, Sutherlin, St. Francis of Eugene, Seaside, Scappoose, Serra of Salem, Willamette, Rainier, Junction City and Newport.

Class C (25)—Crow, Coburg, Columbian, Colton, Drain, Gates, Gervais, Glendale, Henley, Jacksonville, Jefferson, Lorane, Lowell, Mapleton, Monroe, Mohawk, McKenzie, Mt. Shasta, Calif., Rogue River, St. Paul, Siletz, Scia, School for the Deaf of Salem, Waldport and Yoncalla.

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