

EMERALD Sports

Duck Tracks

By Jerry Claussen
Emerald Sports Writer

Hard to believe it, but the 1955 football season on the Pacific Coast is half over. Most teams have 10-game schedules and last Saturday saw all except Oregon State, which takes on only nine opponents this year, play their fifth of the year.

U.C.L.A. Again No. 1

A glance at the PCC standings at the midway mark confirms the fact that only UCLA is having the same success in conference play as it did last season. In other words, the big Bruins are undefeated, although a loss to nationally-first-ranked Maryland outside the conference was a change from last year.

Elsewhere around the conference, football has brought everything from pleasant surprises to complete disappointments to rooters of the other eight teams. The State of Washington can claim the honor of having teams which rose the most and did the least. That old demon upset has been a real factor this season.

Washington Having Good Season

Coach Johnny Cherburg's Washington Huskies have already done enough to claim a successful season. Getting stronger every week, the team from the Northwest's largest school beat Idaho, Minnesota, Oregon and then all-powerful USC before finally falling before a good Baylor team. The Huskies are presently tied with UCLA for the top spot and have won twice as many games as they did during the whole 1954 season. UCLA undoubtedly will go to the Rose Bowl, but Washington is definitely the coast's most improved team.

Now to the other end of the ladder and Washington State. The Cougars figured to have a big year with a long string of two-year lettermen on hand. But USC killed them in the opener, weak Kansas posted a 13-0 upset and UCLA totaled a 55-0 win. Although tying California and beating Idaho, WSC's record for this season will still be worse than 1954's mediocre 4-6.

No Roses for U.S.C.

USC figures to finish about the same as in 1954, although no Roses will be in sight this time. The big and powerful Trojans played a great game in defeating Wisconsin but are not a match for UCLA. Notre Dame might inflict a third defeat on Jess Hill's boys in the Coliseum's windup game Nov. 26.

Stanford, still an up-and-down squad like last year's Indians, is not doing much better. Optimistic Chuck Taylor predicts a win every time but Stanford has lost two out of two starts in the conference. Although coming much closer to beating UCLA than in 1954's humiliating 72-0 drubbing, the same sixth spot is in prospect.

O.S.C. Better

Oregon State started strong but UCLA and COP have cooled off the Beavers the last two Saturdays. Even so, Coach Tommy Prothro has put new spirit into a football flophouse and the best season in four years is in prospect at Corvallis.

Both California and Idaho have shown little. The Bears show promise but are very green. Idaho has not recovered from pre-season food poisoning. Both will finish low.

Ducks Repeating '54 Record

And now for Oregon. In case anyone believes this year's Duck team does not compare with the George Shaw—Ron Phiester—Jack Patera team of 12 months ago, look at the record. Through five games in 1954 the Ducks had a 2-3 mark, exactly the standing of Len Casanova's 1955 Webfoots.

In the first half of last season, Oregon beat Idaho and California and lost to Utah, Stanford and USC. Two of those games were virtually kicked away, a tragedy which occurred only in the Colorado game this year. Also, a supposedly weaker 1955 Oregon team beat Utah, which was stronger than in 1954 when the Ducks lost the home opener with the Redskins.

Chances Good

The Shaw-led Webfoots recovered in the second half of last season to win four out of five and finish 6-4, with 5-3 in conference play, good for third place.

Oregon CC Team Gathers Victory

Bill Dellinger, Oregon's 1954 NCAA mile champion, cracked the course with 12:50.4 at Corvallis Saturday as he led the Ducks to an easy win in the season's first cross-country race with Oregon State and the Portland Track and Field club.

The Ducks of Bill Bowerman came in with 19 points, with OSC placing second with 45 and PTF following with 60. Points are awarded on the basis of finishing runners, as 1-2-3, etc.

Freshman Pete McCart from Vancouver, B.C., also running for Oregon, placed second, trailed by Jerry Larson of OSC and 1955 NCAA mile king Jim Bailey of Oregon.

Other finishers in order were Mark Robbins of Oregon, Dean Moore of PTF, Jim Grelle of Oregon, Al Martin of PTF, Roger Stoutt of Oregon, Gene Tenney of OSC, Bob Drynan of Oregon, Tex Whiteman of OSC, Phil Knight of Oregon, Lee Thornton of Oregon, Frank Moore of OSC, Don Ferguson of OSC and Pete Mundle of PTF.

WSC Coach Unhurt After Saturday's 'Hardest Contact'

PULLMAN, Wash. (P)—Reporters making a routine check on post-game injuries at Washington State college asked first Sunday, "How's the coach? He was in on the hardest tackle of the game."

"The tackle was made," said the public address announcer, "by Hagerty and Kircher."

And Coach Al Kircher of WSC was indeed in on the play. In fact, he wound up on the bottom of the pile.

It was the second quarter of Saturday's WSC-Idaho football game at Moscow and Idaho's Howard Willis had completed a pass to Roger Randolph. Jim Hagerty of WSC hit him hard near the sidelines and delivered him right into the coach's lap.

Hagerty and Randolph flew into Kircher's chair in front of the bench and sent him sprawling into the dust. The stadium announcer gave Kircher an assist on the tackle as Al struggled slowly to his feet.

"I didn't get hurt any," Kircher decided Sunday, "but it was the hardest contact work I've had in years."

If Kircher was bruised, he got good balm. His team won 9-0.

McGuire Wins Lefties' Golf

EUGENE (P)—Walt McGuire, Portland, carded a par 71 Sunday to win the Oregon Left-handers golf tournament.

That gave him a total of 146 for the 36-hole tourney played at the Laurelwood Country Club course.

Jack Walters of Tacoma, Saturday's pacesetter with a 72, fell to a 77 for second place with 149.

Ed Logue, Portland, carded 76-78-154 for third and Bill Brayton, Eugene, was fourth with 79-76-155.

Raymond Adams, Seattle, was net winner with 134 followed by Morris Weigel, Seattle, who had 140.

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Bruins, Huskies Lead PCC Race

By the Associated Press

UCLA and Washington still were front running Sunday in the Rose Bowl handicap although Baylor handed the Huskies their first loss of the year and the unpredictable Stanford Indians rubbed some of the glitter off the Bruins.

In other Pacific Coast Conference games over the week-end, Southern California soundly thrashed Wisconsin 33-21 on Friday night. On Saturday, Oregon beat California 21-0; Washington State took Idaho 9-0 while College of Pacific handed Oregon State a 13-7 loss.

The Bears of Baylor let Washington score first and most of the 42,000 fans at Seattle thought the Huskies were on their way again. A second drive was stopped only inches from Baylor's goal but the Huskies fumbled and Baylor recovered.

The Bears' quarterback, Bobby Jones, hitting at weaknesses in the Huskies' desperately-shifting defense, piloted his club for two scores and a 13-7 win.

At Palo Alto, UCLA hit for three touchdowns the first quarter and it looked like the track meet had started. Then the Indians came back in the second half to give the Bruins all the football they wanted for one afternoon.

The final score was 21-13 in favor of UCLA but the battling

Indians were on UCLA's ten yard stripe as the final gun exploded. Coach Red Sanders commented that Stanford had pointed to this game "almost to the point of becoming a crusade."

Best prestige builder of the week end was USC's walloping of Wisconsin. Many of the Badger State supporters thought that this year's club was the best ever fielded by Ivy Williamson but the Trojans, and especially Jon Arnett, were better.

Oregon's fast backs proved too exhausting for California at Portland.

The hapless Bears stopped two other Oregon drives on the four and eight yard lines else it could have been a real rout.

Frank Sarno, an ex-marine, helmed Washington State to its first win of the year against Idaho. The stocky quarterback kicked a 28 yard field goal and engineered a 67 yard scoring march.

COP staged a Frank Merriwell finish in the last three minutes to eke the win over Oregon State. Fullback Lynn Swanson plunged two yards for the winning touchdown.

This week's card starts off with Iowa invading UCLA Friday night and follows with these Saturday games: USC at Cal.; Washington State at Oregon State; Stanford at Washington and Oregon at Arizona night. Idaho is idle.

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