

EMERALD Sports

Duck Tracks

By Jim Larimore
Emerald Sports Writer

With the first sharp tang of winter in the air and the trees almost bare of their leaves, comes the knowledge that the time is approaching when football must give way to winter sports.

All over the United States, sports writers of all sizes, shapes, descriptions and degrees of importance are burning the midnight oil. What is the cause of this waste of watts, this misuse of ink and graphite, this harried look?

It is time to select the All-American, All-region, All-state, All-conference, All-city, All-school — aw phooey! — Readers will be assailed with not only these but also national A-A picks from AP, UP, INS, Collier's, Post, Look, Life, Sport, Sports Illustrated and heaven who knows who else.

Perhaps that is why this writer reads only the New Yorker and Sporting News. These publications do not burden one with a separate consensus.

What is the value of this activity? True, there are outstanding players that will be recognized on most of these teams. Others may not be recognized, whatever their qualifications. They may be overlooked because they play for small, lesser-known schools or have the misfortune of playing on a losing team; thus not being qualified for publicity build-up.

No Perfect Method

Of course, there is no infallible method of selection. Most publications do their best, relying on certain football writers, coaches, athletic directors and other authorities for their picks.

It would be hard to believe that such selections are made purely on an aesthetic basis. Rather it seems plain that this journalistic feature meets with popular approval and sells one heck of a lot of editions.

The biggest value of these All-American teams, believe it or not, is to professional football. It is provided with ready made box office drawing cards. The professional team owners would be the last ones to make any inroads on the college game, attendance-wise or otherwise. Why do you think their regular games are played Saturday nights and Sundays? Because without conflict, there is a bigger gate for both.

Many Pros Lacked Honor

There are many fine pro players who made the grade without benefit of college ballyhoo. Billy Wilson, Joe Perry and John Henry Johnson of the 49ers; Tank Younger and Deacon Dan Towler of the Rams; Marion Motley, former Cleveland Brown, probably the greatest fullback of all time; Les Bingamon, ex-Detroit middle guard are a few.

Many All-Americans lived up to their notices in pro football, a surprising number of others did not. On that list are Charlie Justice of North Carolina, Harry Gilmer of Alabama, Bobby Reynolds of Nebraska, Jack Scarbath of Maryland, Al Dorow, Michigan State and Don Heinrich of Washington.

The truth is clear; performance, not press clippings, counts. One need not purchase every periodical available to know that Jon Arnett, Jim Swink, Len Dawson, Sam Brown and George Welsh are great players.

All publications are entitled to their own opinion, but why bombard readers, who are inherently entitled to their opinion as well, with myriad assortments of All-American lineups? Why confuse buyers with good money in their pocket with repetitious and superfluous selections?

It is time that a central board was appointed to organize selections polled from coaches, players, writers and broadcasters. Only one first team, one second team, one third team and an honorable mention would be picked. This yearly confusion would be straightened out for the fans' benefit.

High-Riding Webfoots Take Sweatsuit Drills

Still riding high from Saturday's 35-0 romp over Washington State, the Oregon Ducks went through an extensive but snappy "sweat suit" drill on the practice gridiron yesterday.

After viewing movies of the Stanford-Washington 7-7 tie, Coach Len Casanova sent his Webfoot charges through vigorous limbering-up drills. Oregon showed lots of fire in their extended dummy scrimmage, as the cold air failed to slow down the Duck offensive feats.

Against Stanford defenses, the Casanovamen worked over their basic offense with special attention directed at the Webfoot passing game. Both the passes and the hand-off plays to Fullback Dick Morris demonstrated Oregon's current prowess; ends George Slender and Phil McHugh made a number of grand catches as did receivers Pete Swanberg and J. C. Wheeler.

Up-and-coming sophomore guard Harry Mondale, who pulled a leg muscle in Saturday's game at Pullman, was the only Oregon griddier not in uniform yesterday. It is possible, however, that the stocky stalwart will be ready for Saturday's contest at Stanford.

Junior guard Jack Pocock, injured slightly in practice last week, is completely recovered and will be ready to go at Palo Alto as will Team Captain Lon Stiner.

Francis Still Ailing

CORVALLIS (P) — The Oregon State football team came through its 33-14 victory over Idaho last Saturday with no additional injuries, Coach Tommy Prothro reported Monday.

But the condition of Joe Francis, who suffered a bone chip in the left wrist and a severely bruised right shoulder in an earlier game, remained a question mark.

Unless Francis, the Beavers' best ground gainer, shows rapid improvement, he may not be able to play against California at Berkeley next weekend, Prothro said.

Hill 'Hanged' By Trojans

LOS ANGELES (P) — Coach Jess Hill of Southern California apparently became the Pacific Coast conference's fourth victim of an effigy hanging Monday.

USC officials found a dummy propped against a tree from which hung a rope. Newspapers promptly labeled it an effigy hanging, although there was no identifying mark on the dummy. The Trojans were upset by Stanford Saturday, 28-20.

Hill said, "It doesn't bother me at all. I don't see any evidence it was me, anyway."

Hill has another year to go on his current three-year contract, believed to call for about \$15,000 a year. He is in his fifth season as a head coach and the 1955 team record now stands at five victories and three defeats.

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Huskies Get Serious

SEATTLE (P) — Coach Johnny Cherberg said Monday he hopes his University of Washington football players "take this underdog business seriously" when they meet UCLA Saturday in Los Angeles.

Noting that UCLA will be a heavy favorite to trim his faded Huskies, Cherberg said his team "has confounded the experts before." Notable instances were the 30-0 defeat of Minnesota and the 7-0 victory over Southern California.

Cherberg showed his club movies of the California game, which it lost by a 20-6 count Saturday after being favored to win. Then he sent the team out for a light workout, promising it a heavy practice schedule for the rest of the week.

Davenport Tries Knee

LOS ANGELES (P) — Big Bob Davenport, UCLA's power fullback, was running in a sweat suit Monday, gingerly trying out the knee he injured against California two weeks ago.

The rest of the Bruins ran through a two hour workout. Those reserves who didn't see much action in last Saturday's 34-0 drubbing of College of the Pacific ran a half hour scrimmage.

Coach Red Sanders said Davenport is still on the doubtful list to play against Washington in the Coliseum this Saturday.

Trojans Get Day Off

LOS ANGELES (P) — Still smarting from losing to Stanford last week 28-20, the University of Southern California Trojans took the day off while the junior varsity practiced UCLA plays Monday.

The Trojans draw a bye this Saturday, and Coach Jess Hill apparently wants his boys well rested for the big one against the Bruins the following week. Hill said the Trojans will begin knocking heads in earnest Tuesday.

Cougars Recuperate

PULLMAN, Wash. (P) — The Washington State Cougars, headed toward the end of one of their worst football seasons in history, ran through light defensive drills Monday for the San Jose State game Saturday.

The Cougars avoided contact work but had a look at some of the patterns San Jose is expected to use here. Coach Al Kircher said he expects to have the injured Bill Kramer and Dennis Rath available Saturday. The two fullbacks have missed the last two games.

San Jose, with a 5-2 record, scouted last week's 35-0 WSC drubbing at the hands of Oregon. It was the Cougars' sixth loss in eight games.

WSC scouts watched San Jose lick California Poly, 20-14, last week and brought back word the Cougars will be in for another rough afternoon.

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