

Duck Tracks

By Al Johnson
Emerald Ass't Sports Editor

Coast football has suffered over the past few seasons in competition with Big Ten and other Midwest elevens, but last weekend's amazing game that saw Southern California smash Notre Dame, 42-20, gives the PCC quite a lift in prestige and a definite boost in overall morale as well, always a factor in the Rose Bowl game "decider" between the sections.

The men of Troy finally got all their wealth of material working at top form Saturday, and the result of the game was an indication of the true Trojan strength that had been looked for all season. Coach Jess Hill probably spared himself a hanging-in-effigy with the win, after an otherwise disastrous season of four losses.

Last year the SC club went to the Rose Bowl on a sort of second-best basis, as they were given the bid when circuit champion UCLA could not return. A 20-7 loser to Ohio State, the Trojans were expected to be a potent entry this season in the yearly battle for supremacy with UCLA. But something went wrong with the planning.

Early Victories Easy

After three comparatively easy opening victories over Washington State, Oregon and Texas, the Trojans dropped a bitter battle to upstart Washington on a muddy field in Seattle, 7-0. They snapped back quickly with perhaps their best effort of the season (save the Notre Dame game) and toppled previously unbeaten Wisconsin, 33-21.

California's unhappy Bears went down to a 33-6 defeat before reversals of form began showing up. Troy encountered a rare element—snow—in Minneapolis and went down before an inspired Minnesota team, 25-19, in a game filled with long runs. Stanford hit the Trojans like a tidal wave the next week and scrapped its way to a 27-20 upset victory in the home Coliseum.

At this point, the schedule gave SC a break by allowing them an open date to prepare for the two teams figured to be the toughest opposition of the year, as if they needed more stiff competition. Hill must have done wonders for his team in the layoff, for they really showed what they could do in the final games. They lost to UCLA, 17-7, after having an opening kickoff TD return of 97 yards by Jon Arnett nullified because of an obscure offside penalty.

Aim for Irish

But that only set the stage for the big effort. The game with the Irish is Troy's aiming point during most of the season, except perhaps the UCLA game that usually is the deciding factor in the Rose Bowl choice. But Notre Dame claims a magic appeal of its own and Trojan players always enjoy toppling the Irish from their usually-high place in national rankings. They did it in 1950 by a 9-7 score and certainly pulled as big a shocker this year.

Two fine ballplayers led their team in this final game, as they have all year. Quarterback Paul Hornung of ND and halfback Jon Arnett of SC, both juniors, were stars of the show. Hornung was the passer and chief ground-gainer too at times, while playing a crack defensive game. Arnett showed his peerless running style to the Irish, while racking up another large point total.

The job Hill did with his material this year was often criticized, but each of his defeats are explainable enough. Washington was the first team to upend Troy, and was a team called by several scouts as potentially the best they had seen in years. The Minnesota weather conditions may have beaten USC in that game, as the Trojans certainly were used to the sunny confines of Memorial Coliseum.

Tribe at Peak

Stanford had the conference's best team at the close of the season, and probably made their peak effort of the season against Troy. The Indians' passing attack made them threats against anyone they played and USC proved vulnerable through the air. And the loss to UCLA could have been expected, in that the Bruins are the fourth-ranked team in the nation and almost upended mighty Maryland.

So no faults can be found that cannot really be accounted for, except through unlucky circumstances. USC had, as always, fine material on their team, and it was evident against Notre Dame. Sophomore fullback C. R. Roberts finally lived up to his advance notices and the other backs came through all at once. Inconsistent quarterbacks Ellsworth Kissinger and Jim Contratto suddenly became passing demons and everything went right.

It was just another example of how football teams can be vastly different on any given day, and 95,000 fans saw that demonstrated vividly. It was a gratifying result for the Coast and should have shown Midwest experts that the PCC performers are worthy of some mention, after all.

Trucks, Phillips Traded in First Major League Deal

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP)—Detroit and Chicago completed the first major trade of the baseball meetings Wednesday, the Tigers re-acquiring veteran righthander Virgil Trucks from the White Sox in exchange for reserve outfielder John (Budda) Phillips.

It was only the second deal involving major league players since the baseball people arrived last Sunday. The Chicago Cubs recently dealt relief pitcher Hal Jeffcoat to Cincinnati for second string catcher Hobie Landrith. But Jeffcoat's subsequent announcement that he intends to retire from the game has caused complications.

The Tigers' acquisition of Trucks gives rise to the suspicion they plan to pass on the aging right hander to the New York Yankees for younger talent. Detroit had hoped to draft infielder Herb Plews, a Yankee farm hand at Denver, but was thwarted when Pittsburgh drafted pitcher Jack McMahon from Denver to close up that club.

Gabe Paul, general manager of the Cincinnati Redlegs, said he

had offered seven players for an unnamed outfielder of the Pittsburgh Pirates. It was learned that the "unnamed player" is slugging Frank Thomas.

Trucks, 36, had a mediocre 13-8 won-lost record with a 3.96 earned run percentage last year, but he won 20 games in 1953 and 19 in 1954.

The Birmingham, Ala., native first joined the Tigers in 1942 and was with them until December 1952, when he was traded to the St. Louis Browns along with pitcher Hal White and outfielder Johnny Groth for infielder Owen Friend, outfielder Bob Nieman and catcher J. W. Porter. The latter is still with the Tigers.

Trucks won only five games for the Tigers in 1952, but two of his victories were no-hitters. He also had a one-hitter, a two-hitter and a five-hitter.

Phillips appeared in 95 games for the Tigers last year in the outfield and at third base. The 25-year-old speedster batted .234, drove in 24 runs and hit three home runs.

Honors Come In Loads for HB Hopalong

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Howard (Hopalong) Cassady Wednesday was honored for the second time in less than 24 hours with an award as college football player of the year.

The 21-year-old Ohio State star, who Tuesday was announced as the winner of the Heisman Memorial Trophy as the outstanding college football player of 1955, received a similar bow from the Robert W. Maxwell club.

Bert Bell, commissioner of the National Football League and president of the Maxwell club, announced that Cassady, 5-10, 175 pound Buckeye senior, would receive the award Jan. 23 at the club's annual dinner.

Cassady, an All-America half-back, led the Buckeyes to their second straight Big 10 championship this season. He was third in the nation in rushing this year with 958 yards gained on 161 carries. He wound up 10th in the nation on total offense with 997 yards on 171 plays in nine games.

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HS Gridder Honest; Result, No Honors

PENDLETON (AP) — George Horning, reserve Hermiston high school center, insisted it was a case of mistaken identity, so Bill Easterly, Hermiston's starting center, was named instead to the Blue Mountain Conference all-star football team.

Horning was nominated to the team but he took the matter to his coach, saying he was sure writers who voted for him meant to support Easterly. He said they apparently confused his number with that worn by Easterly.

Ward called the case to the attention of Nolan Skiff, Pendleton East Oregonian sports editor, who tabulates the all-star selections. Skiff explained it to others who had voted for Horning and they changed their choices to Easterly.

Horning still hopes he can make the all-star team, with no mistakes. He is a junior and will return to play next season.



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