

Duck Tracks

By Al Johnson
Emerald Ass't Sports Editor

After an absence of over a month, college football finally bowed out in a blaze of glory with a round of exciting bowl games and all-star contests. By the week's end only the endless post-mortems and second-guess sessions will remain of the holiday action. Most of the favorites came through as predicted, but many a tense moment gave near-heart-failure to the millions in attendance, watching on television and listening on the radio.

Only a few more items remain before the grid sport is retired until next fall. These include the Senior Bowl game at Mobile this weekend, the professional all-star game in Los Angeles and the remainder of the pro draft picks begun in December with the first three rounds and the bonus choice.

A Christmas night contest in Miami opened the action as Navy quarterback George Welsh led the South team to a victory over the Northern squad. In the similar contest between Blue and Gray teams in Montgomery, Ala., the rebels again were the winners, this time by 20-19.

Vandy Pulls Surprise

Vanderbilt upset all available dope buckets by playing a determined ball game from start to finish to topple Auburn's Plainsmen in the Gator Bowl, 25-13. The three-time losing Commodores were ahead all the way, as a passing attack squelched the high-ranking Auburn eleven.

At San Francisco, the East team proved too powerful for Jess Hill's West club, and the USC mentor could only point to a hanging in effigy in Berkeley as the result. Backs Jerry Reichow of Iowa (the game's most valuable) and Hopalong Cassidy of Ohio State sparked the bulldozing attack designed for the East by Coach Woody Hayes. Oregon's Lon Stiner was a starter at tackle for the West, but the game was all East.

The day's chief attraction was probably the Rose Bowl classic featuring the Big Ten's best against the PCC champ. It was a natural, too, with once-beaten UCLA and once-beaten Michigan State set for a battle of battles. And it went down to the final seven seconds before the Spartans grabbed a 17-14 margin of victory, on end Dave Kaiser's 41-yard field goal.

Earlier Clash Recalled

The close defeat revived memories of the 1950 Rose Bowl clash, when California lost to Ohio State on the field goal of Buckeye end Jim Hague, and also 17-14. It was also the ninth win in ten tries for the Big Ten since the first of three Rose Bowl pacts were signed. USC's 7-0 victory over Wisconsin in 1952 was the exception.

UCLA played under a lucky star most of the way against the Spartans, though both teams were handed breaks. The Bruins seized the lead in the first three minutes following a pass interception. Bob Davenport blasted over for the score, and he was the top Uclan rusher all day. But the Sparts struck back to take a 14-7 lead behind a dazzling variety of plays and a group of lightning backs.

Touted Ronnie Knox played a great deal in the last quarter and generated the Bruins' only real touchdown drive to tie the score at 14-all. Knox threw several fine passes on the march, with a 45-yarder to Jim Decker the key play. But the Spartans capitalized on a succession of penalties and had control at the end.

Ole' Miss Reverses Pickers

In the Cotton Bowl, Mississippi defied the experts and came on with a rush in the last five minutes to defeat Texas Christian, 14-13. Quarterback Eagle Day of Ole Miss turned a fourth down pass play into a 25-yard run to set up the winning score and fullback Paige Cothren rammed the extra point home to seal the win.

Jim Swink, TCU's all-American choice at fullback, tallied both touchdowns for the Horned Frogs on runs of 1 and 39 yards, but could not carry the burden alone. Quarterback Chuck Curtis was injured on the game's opening play and was lost for the entire game. The second-stringer, Dick Finney, performed capably, but the lack of Curtis' passing seemed vital.

At New Orleans, fullback Bobby Grier of Pittsburgh unfortunately played a key part in his team's Sugar Bowl loss to Georgia Tech, 7-0. A disputed pass interference penalty on Grier in the end zone led to the Tech score, and Pitt could not catch up.

And Oklahoma proved its top-ranking position by running roughshod over also unbeaten Maryland. The Sooners tallied all their points in the second half to achieve a 20-6 Orange Bowl triumph. The speed and power of the Oklahoma lines and backfield was too much for the heavy but slow Terps.

All-Stars Drill For Senior Bowl

MOBILE, Ala. (P)—Fob James, the Southeastern Conference's leading ground gainer, was returned to the South's offensive team Wednesday as both Senior Bowl coaches concentrated on jelling their squads into smooth working machines for Saturday's game.

James, fast halfback on Auburn's Gator Bowl team, had been assigned to Coach Paul Brown's defensive unit Tuesday but Brown alternated him Wednesday with Don McIlhenny, Southern Methodist, at one of the halfback slots.

Brown, coach of the pro champion Cleveland Browns, and Buddy Parker, Detroit Lion head man, spent the day at their most difficult task—teaching some of the nation's top collegiate stars their plays.

The 50 players, 25 on each squad, come from schools with various types of offense.

Snead Posts Top Average

CHICAGO (P)—Julius Boros was 1955's top golf money winner, as entirely expected, but Slammin' Sammy Snead was the year's big surprise among the tourney pros with the best tourney average, 69.86 strokes per round.

The 41-year-old Snead posted his sizzling average with 4,401 strokes over 63 rounds to capture the Vardon Trophy award for the fourth time, the Professional Golfers' Assn. of America announced Wednesday.

The PGA credited Boros with 1955 earnings of \$63,121, the biggest chunk being his \$50,000 purse in Tam O'Shanter's "world" meet.

Snead, who dropped out of the 25 money-winners in 1954, last year rallied for his greatest cash collecting since 1950, earning \$23,454 to finish seventh in the standings.

Sammy also won the Vardon Trophy in 1938, 1949 and 1950 when he fashioned a record of 69.23 average which still stands. In 1950, Snead piled up winnings of \$37,593.

Runner-up to Boros in 1955 earnings was Dr. Cary Middlecoff, who won six tourneys and \$39,567. Third was PGA champion Doug Ford with \$33,503.

Souchak, like Snead, registered tremendous improvement during the year, moving from beyond the first 25 in the 1954 to fourth spot last year.

Ford, playing a record number of 128 PGA rounds, was second to Snead in the Vardon race with an average of 70.12. Middlecoff was third with 70.16.

Ford led the still young Ryder Cup point competition with 135 points, followed by Tommy Bolt with 126 5-6.

Beavers Leave For Pullman Tilt

CORVALLIS (P)—Oregon State's young basketball team leaves here by plane Thursday for Pullman, Wash., for the Pacific Coast Conference opener against Washington State Friday.

Coach Slat Gill said the starting lineup would be Dick Wilson and Larry Paulus, forwards; Dave Gambee, center; and Gary Haynes and Ken Nanson, guards.

Oregon State has won three and lost seven in pre-season games, but was only defeated once by more than 10 points.

Sports Staff

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NW Conference Hoop Plan Due

By the Associated Press

The Northwest Conference basketball race opens Friday night with Pacific at Lewis and Clark, Willamette at College of Idaho, and Linfield at Whitman.

College of Idaho, the defending champion, will be without its star player, Elgin Baylor, who paced the Coyotes to 15 straight victories last year. The Coyotes, with a new coach, Len Yandle, have won two and lost four pre-league games.

Pacific, which finished second last year, will be aided again this year by Danny French, all-conference for the past two years.

Don Porter, also all-conference, will aid Linfield. Willamette, fourth last year, will be a threat with its tall players—Neil Causbie, 6-7; Jack Bishop, 6-6; and Pete Reed, 6-5.

Whitman still has its short but highly effective guards, Del Klicker and Bob Becker.

And Lewis and Clark, which finished last a year ago, has showed steady improvement in pre-conference games.

Each team will play a 15-game schedule as in the past.

Building Financed In Squaw Valley

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (P)—The California State Olympic Commission Wednesday approved a five million dollar plan to get Squaw Valley ready for the 1960 Olympic games.

A report outlining the 4-year building job drew immediate fire from several property owners. They expressed fear the valley, rimmed by 9,000 foot Sierra peaks would be turned into a "Coney Island" and "tourist trap."

The 5-member commission adopted a resolution urging Gov. Goodwin J. Knight to support additional financing from the state. The 1955 Legislature appropriated one million dollars and it asked Knight to help present the plan at Cortina, Italy this month.

The International Olympic Committee, which awarded the games to Squaw Valley last year, is to receive a progress report at the meeting at Cortina, site of the 1956 winter Olympics.

Knight has said he would go to Cortina if necessary to save the games for Squaw Valley.

Low Hoad Shies From U. S. Play

SYDNEY, Australia (P)—Australian Davis Cup ace Low Hoad announced Wednesday he would not play in the United States national tennis championships this year.

The big, blond youngster said he could not afford to play in America because it is too expensive.

Castellani Drops Split Decision

CLEVELAND (P)—Gene Fullmer won a split 10-round decision over Rocky Castellani Wednesday night in a bloody middleweight bout in Cleveland Arena.

Both bleeding freely from face cuts, the pair were slugging it out at the final bell. Fullmer still bullying in with flailing charges he began in the opening round. Castellani, meeting Fullmer's rushes with telling counter-punches seemed well in control of the action throughout the fight.

Judge Herb Williams scored it 96-92 for Fullmer; Judge Charley Bill, 95-92 for Castellani, and Referee Lou Parke, 97-94 for Fullmer.

The Associated Press scored it 97-93 in favor of Castellani.

Fullmer opened a bad cut over Castellani's right eye in the sixth round and Castellani went the rest of the way with blood streaming down his face.

In the eighth, Fullmer opened a cut over Castellani's other eye, and in the ninth the Cleveland fighter ripped a cut across Fullmer's hairline.

Most of the crowd of 1,487 appeared to feel that Castellani won the fight. But when the judges decision was announced, the crowd cheered for the plucky Fullmer, whose home is in West Jordan, Utah.

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