

# Duck Tracks

By Jim Larimore  
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It used to be, back in the "good old days," that a major league club owner could pack up some baseball equipment, stick 25 grand in the kitty and head south with his ball players for spring training. After two or three weeks of training, his club would work its way north by playing exhibitions, hitting the old home town in time for opening day. The board and room of the players was paid and that was all.

This is not the case any more and the big difference is denoted by the dollar sign. Spring training is second only to the salary rolls as the club's heaviest expenditure. Besides paying for room, the team now furnishes each player with \$8 per day meal money and \$25 a week for laundry and tips.

This adds up to \$81 a week and most clubs train between 40 and 50 players on the roster in the spring. Spring training now lasts seven or eight weeks and the total for tips and meal money alone now runs around \$25,000.

The practice has recently been inaugurated by major league clubs of bringing their minor league affiliates south into one huge central spring training camp. The cost of transporting these minor leaguers to the camp is tremendous, as is the cost of boarding them. These camps often resemble Army posts with facilities for 200 players and training sites covering several acres.

Add in the heavy cost of equipment. At Detroit's Tiger-town, Lakeland, Fla., 40 dozen bats and 80 dozen baseballs were on hand at the start of training with more to be delivered. Then there is the bookkeeper's boon—"Miscellaneous Expenses." One can see why so many major league executives have gray hairs.

## Million Attendance Needed

When a club has a paid attendance of over one million, the average fan assumes that the owner is rolling in loot, but such is not the case. They need to draw well over a million cash customers to break even or keep their losses at a minimum. Even then, if it weren't for extra revenue from concessions, radio and television rights and with most clubs, rentals from professional football, many clubs would be in deep financial trouble.

In recent years, the St. Louis Browns and the Philadelphia Athletics have both lost their franchises to new ownership. Both clubs have moved successfully to Baltimore and Kansas City. The Cleveland Indians have changed ownership twice. And the word is out that if Pittsburgh suffers at the gate in 1956 as they have the past two seasons, they will also have to sell.

In the past five years, Pirate Vice President Tom Johnson admitted the owners have lost \$2,063,699 trying to keep the Buccos in town. Johnson went on to say that he and President John Galbreath couldn't continue absorbing this kind of deficit. They have cut back the budget and figure they can make it on an attendance of approximately 900,000.

The Pirates ran into trouble spending over \$600,000 on bonus players while not as yet coming up with an interesting enough club to draw the fans away from their TV sets. Pittsburgh has a hustling young club now with a bright young manager in Bobby Bragan, but the rest of the National league is very much improved and the Bucs still lack power hitting. They'll probably be the best eighth place club in the history of the league.

## Advertising for Ballplayers

To stimulate interest, Pittsburgh has experimented in a plain old advertising program. They bought newspaper space to promote a fan contest. The Kansas City Athletics bought space in "Sporting News" last season, printing application blanks for youngsters interested in playing major league ball. The A's got a tremendous response to this ad and it is conceivable that the advertising field might be used heavily by baseball clubs in the near future.

After all, they are in fierce competition with movie, television and other fields of entertainment for the cash customer. The owners are paying the players excellent salaries and don't let any player's representative lawyer fool you; life is very good in the majors for players, managers, coaches and trainers. This reporter knows a major league coach who turned down a chance to manage in the minors. They never want to leave the big top.

One doesn't have to worry about baseball going big business all the way as long as there are guys like Mickey Vernon, of the Bosox, from Marcus Hook, Pa. or Gerry Staley from Brush Prairie, Wash. Then there is Wilmer Mizell of the Cards from Vinegar Bend, Ala. and Mickey Mantle from Spavinaw, Okla. Capitalists just don't come from Strawberry Plains, Tenn., the birthplace of the Red's Ed Bailey.

# Uclans Pace Stats; Naulls Tops List

Willie Naulls, UCLA's "whale" of a ball player, has the Pacific Coast conference scoring title just about sewed up, while California's Bob Blake has annexed the accuracy lead in a tight percentage battle, according to statistics released today by the PCC commissioner's office.

Max Anderson and Charlie Franklin carry Oregon's only hopes for individual honors with representation in three of the four races.

## Naulls Tops Taft

Naulls has picked up 22.7 points per game in 12 starts for



BOB BLAKE  
Cal Captain shooting .464

272 total points, 24 better than his teammate Morris Taft, who is in second place. It appears that both will top the 300 mark in the four games remaining, as may Larry Beck of Washington State, who has 245 counters in 12 games.

Anderson fell two places to ninth spot in the weekend's scoring action, with a total of 181. Franklin slipped from ninth to 13th.

## Franklin in Rebound Race

The sophomore Duck forward is third in rebound averages, however, with 130 gathers out of 1088 possible for .120. Anderson stands sixth on a .118 average with 128 swipes. Naulls, of course, leads the field with a top percentage of .167 and total of 179.

Blake has scored 59 field goals in 127 tries for his .464 marksmanship lead. Taft has .458 and USC's Jack Lovrich owns a .457 for second and third spots.

## Perkins Best in Free Throws

Doyle Perkins, Washington's diminutive guard, tops the free throw accuracy list with 38 out of 48 and a .792. He is followed by teammate Ron Patno with .785 and Blake with .775. Franklin represents Oregon with .725 and ninth place and Anderson is 13th with .708.

Other Webfoots in total scoring include Jerry Ross with 133 points for a 11.1 average in 21st spot, Ray Bell at 96 for 32nd and Bill Moore in 45th with 60.

## Top 10 scorers:

|                | G  | FG | FT | PF | TP  | Av.  |
|----------------|----|----|----|----|-----|------|
| Naulls (UCLA)  | 12 | 95 | 82 | 32 | 272 | 22.7 |
| Taft (UCLA)    | 12 | 96 | 56 | 31 | 248 | 20.7 |
| Beck (WSC)     | 12 | 77 | 91 | 41 | 245 | 20.4 |
| Boin (UW)      | 14 | 71 | 94 | 31 | 236 | 16.9 |
| Selleck (Stan) | 14 | 93 | 49 | 40 | 235 | 16.8 |
| Gamble (OSC)   | 14 | 89 | 56 | 44 | 234 | 16.7 |
| Bond (Stan)    | 14 | 81 | 62 | 37 | 224 | 16.0 |
| Brown (Stan)   | 14 | 70 | 46 | 34 | 186 | 13.3 |
| Anderson (UO)  | 12 | 54 | 73 | 42 | 181 | 15.1 |
| Blake (Cal)    | 12 | 59 | 55 | 31 | 173 | 14.4 |

LOS ANGELES — UCLA is rolling at a record-breaking pace in leading the Pacific Coast conference team scoring race, it was disclosed today by figures from the PCC Commissioner's office.

The Bruins have averaged 81.4 points a game to date, well in excess of the established season record of 75.1 set by UCLA two years ago. They replaced one PCC game record last weekend when they scored 108 points against Oregon (old mark: 98, California, 1954.) Oregon's total of 89 points also was the highest ever recorded by a losing team and their combined total of 197 points constituted a third record.

## Huskies Top Defenders

Defensively, Washington holds a narrow edge, having allowed 57.7 points a game to 58.5 for Southern California (which also ranked second offensively) and 59.3 for California.

Washington's defensive strength has been shown in the stingy shooting percentages allowed opponents, the Huskies having allowed but 32.4 per cent on field goal attempts.

Offensively, Southern Cal has the best shooting eye with 40.2 on floor shots to 39.5 per cent for UCLA and 39.1 per cent for California. Washington has the best team mark from the free throw line, 69.5 per cent, to 67.4 per cent for UCLA and 66.8 per cent for California.

## Uclans Best Rebounders

UCLA is the undisputed leader in rebounding, having picked off 623 rebounds to its opponents 454, or 58 per cent. Southern California is rebounding at 54 per cent and California at 53.2 per cent.

Three conference series are scheduled this weekend: California - UCLA at Los Angeles; Washington State-Oregon at Eugene and Southern California-Washington at Seattle.

# Frosh Schedule Linfield, All-Stars In Weekend Action

After a seven-day vacation from their hoop chores, the Oregon Frosh are currently preparing for a full two-game slate this weekend. Owners of a three-eight season record, the Ducklings meet Linfield's JV's here Friday night, and follow up with a "special" against the Oregon Intramural All-Stars at Mac court Saturday evening.

Frosh coach Jerry Frei said he had little information on the McMinnville Juniors, but indicated that he expects a rough contest for the Freshmen. One of Linfield's big guns will be football quarterback Ron Parrish, an ex-Prineville athlete. The JV's have had a fairly successful season against small college squads, according to Frei.

Saturday night's tilt should bring comic relief to McCarthur court, with talented but out-of-shape All-Stars out to stop the Ducklings. Frei said that the IM players had practiced several times with his squad, and remarked that they are a potentially powerful team, with depth, height, and plenty of scoring ability. With varsity prospects Eli Morgan and Richi Costi due for action, the Ducklings may be hard-pressed to eclipse the Stars.

## Emery Barnes, Former U of O Athlete, Signs Pro Grid Contract

Emery Barnes, 6'5" end and captain of Oregon's 1953 varsity football squad, has signed to play professional football with the Green Bay Packers of the National Football league.

Barnes was also an outstanding high jumper for Bill Bowerman's Webfoot track, clearing 6'8" to win the 1952 NCAA championship in that event. He earned three letters in football.

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