

EMERALD Sports

Duck Tracks

By JIM LARIMORE
Emerald Ass't. Sports Editor

Dusk was gathering as the batter strode to the plate, the big number 38 showing on the back of his gray traveling uniform. Gripping the bat tightly in his big catcher's hands he took the first pitch — and the second — and the third. Strike — strike — ball. Grimly, the pitcher sized up the batter, a look of concentration on his young, determined face.

This was it, just one strike, one-third of an out. The curve ball came in, breaking wide, too wide — but the batter swung and missed a foot.

There it was, Don Bessent of the Dodgers had struck out Hank Foiles of Pittsburgh and the Dodgers won it 8-6, another pennant and another crack at the Yankees — the Yankees they trounced in 1955.

The Brooklyn fans, doubting to the last second as only Brooklyn fans can doubt, roared their approval and poured onto the field to congratulate their heroes. A Brooklyn fan can crack a rib pounding you or tear the uniform from you in appreciation so the police formed a cordon to get the weary but jubilant players off the field.

Flatbush Fans Are Tough

It's hard to understand the way the Dodger fans feel about their Bums. There is not the out-and-out hero worship you find in Milwaukee but rather a negative adoration. If the Dodgers lose they say "Yah, whaddayou expect from that bum Oiskine?" If they win the fans snort, "It's about time that bum Duke started hittin' in da clutch."

But they love their Bums as no others do and the O'Malley better send some boys out to check to see if Ebbets field is still standing in the morning. After all, the Series opens there Wednesday.

The Dodgers have won but no one really believed they would. No one but the Dodgers. Everyone kept pointing out that the Braves had the pitching, the Redlegs had the power and that Brooklyn was aging. The Braves were the sentimental favorites, they were the young team and their Milwaukee success story with the fans turning out two million strong every year appealed to the soft hearts of American baseball fans.

Braves Sentimental Favorites

Or what about Cincinnati with all that slugging and fine defense and a great manager in Birdie Tebbets. Maybe they didn't have the pitching, maybe they had to call in a 36-year-old retread from the Coast league — look at those muscles! 221 homers going in to the last game and great hearts that wouldn't admit they were beaten.

But the Dodgers? Where was the appeal of the Dodgers? Sure, they were world champs in 1955. But they were the same old Dodgers of the last seven years. They're getting old, they're not hitting, their pitching is as spotty as a cuspidor stand. They have Snider, but he dies up there against a left-hander and he doesn't hit in the clutch. They have Newcombe who's won 27 this year but gets gopher-ballitis and temperamental.

Their manager, Alston, looks like a commuter who just missed his 7:45 train out of New Haven. They've got Reese and Robinson but so has the old man with the scythe. And Maglie, he's the oldest of them all. Hodges hasn't slowed down much but his batting average has. And Furillo isn't making the plays he used to and Erskine has lost it. They don't have a left fielder they can count on.

Redlegs More Exciting

That's the way it went, those were the things you read in the sports section or heard on the broadcasts. Maybe they were true but Brooklyn came back to Ebbets field and won it. Maybe they'll try to say that Brooklyn didn't win it, the Braves lost it. The Braves blew two straight to St. Louis and the pennant.

A team can't back into the pennant, it has to win it and the Dodgers took Pittsburgh three straight. They saw Bobby Bragan's best in every game — Bob Friend. And the Pirates fell to seventh by losing.

Even this reporter, who picked the Bums to win last March, was pulling for Milwaukee. But the Braves will have to wait until 1957, which will be their year. Right now, though, I'll bet the Cards and the Pirates don't have a friend in the country.

UCLA, Oregon Clash In Coliseum Contest

By TOM CHAPMAN
Emerald Sports Writer

The University of Oregon Ducks invade Memorial Coliseum Friday night for a game with the UCLA Bruins and a chance to show off the power which has been forecast for them in early season victories.

The big Pacific Coast Conference clash pits the Ducks against a new UCLA eleven, not the same one which last lost to Oregon in 1948. Gone are the all-Americans, the terrific single-wing attack developed by head coach Red Sanders and Ronnie Knox, All-Coast quarterback of last season. What remains is a burning incentive to win and a well-rounded squad capable of beating the best on any given weekend.

The penalty-ridden Bruins offer more than what meets the eye after looking at their opening ball games against Utah and Michigan. They beat Utah 13-7 but lost, to the powerful Wolverines 42-13 last Saturday at Ann Arbor, but in both games have shown that they have the material to give any PCC team a run for their money.

Coach Sanders has 18 returning lettermen under his fold as the 1956 season begins. Included among these are three ends, two tackles, four guards, two centers, two quarterbacks, two left halfbacks, two wingbacks and one at fullback. This is indicative that the Bruins will be quite strong at every position, but the only two starters back from the 1955 PCC championship team are blocking back Bob Bergdahl and fullback Bruce Ballard, who alternated with Bergdahl at quarter.

Lost from the Rose bowl squad are 15 veterans, including the entire first string line. Among the standouts who are playing their football elsewhere are All-Americans Hardie Cureton, Rommie Loudd, Bob Davenport and Jim Brown.

The loss of Knox to the Cana-

dian pro ranks takes Sanders' best passing quarterback, plus his top punter. To replace the controversial Knox, Sanders will have to dip into his talent laden sophomore collection and hope to come up with two or three stars that led the Bruin frosh to an undefeated season last year.

Otherwise the outlook is not hopeless, for sure. Position by position, the Bruins starters show speed, size and ability to master the balanced-line single wing attack employed by the masterful Sanders.

This offense, of which there are only two others like it in the country, is a well-balanced power attack employing many run-pass option plays. The 1956 edition of this single-wing offense could be augmented by a spread formation introduced by Sanders during drills this spring.

UCLA will use only two seniors Friday against the Ducks, the rest deciding to wait for the final games which include USC, Stanford and Oregon State. Both Bradley and Bergdahl are cinch starters, barring injuries in practice this week, and both are experienced backs.

Bergdahl is a two-year letterman who played more than any other junior on the squad last season. As a blocking back, he didn't carry the ball, but intercepted two passes for 72 yards, caught one pass and took two kickoffs for another 25 yards. His senior co-partner Bradley was handicapped by injuries last year, but played enough to complete 14 out of 23 passes for a fantastic .610 per cent, 166 yards and four touchdowns. Look for him to make Bruin fans forget about Ronnie Knox, at least for the first five games.

The UCLA line is big, and should outweigh the starting Duck forward wall. The Bruins line averages 204 pounds, which compares favorably to the Idaho line in size. The bulwark of this UCLA should be Jim Matheny, junior center, who played more

than any sophomore last season, 282 minutes.

Besides Matheny, Coach Sanders can rely on ends Hal Smith and Dick Wallen, tackles Jerry Penner and Jim Dawson, and guards Esker Harris and Clint Whitfield. Whitfield, incidentally, was runner-up in the heavyweight division of the 1956 Pacific Coast wrestling championships and is one of two sophomore starters on the UCLA eleven.

Besides Bergdahl and Bradley in the backfield, the Bruins will have two inexperienced non-lettermen. Barry Billington is due to get the nod at fullback, and Louis Elias is a probable starter at right half.

At first glance it appears difficult to make a choice for the favorite role in this conference clash. The Ducks had their disappointing moments against Idaho Saturday, but should definitely be up for this one. UCLA took it on the chin against Michigan, but being in their own backyard should make a big difference.

A look at the record book shows that in the 25 games played between the two clubs, the Bruins have won 15 to Oregon's 10, in a series that started in 1928. The two squads did not meet in 1955.

IM Schedule

October 1

- 3:50 Phi Delta Theta vs. Delta Upsilon, IM Field
- 3:50 Theta Chi vs. Sigma Phi Epsilon, Field 1
- 3:50 Alpha Tau Omega vs. Delta Tau Delta, Field 2
- 3:50 Sigma Nu vs. Beta Theta Pi, Field 3
- 4:45 Pi Kappa Alpha vs. Sigma Alpha Epsilon, IM Field
- 4:45 Tau Kappa Epsilon vs. Phi Kappa Sigma, Field 1
- 4:45 Lambda Chi Alpha vs. Kappa Sigma, Field 2
- 4:45 Chi Psi vs. Sigma Alpha Mu, Field 3

IM Team Bosses Exclude Wrestling

By a vote of 10-9, Intramural managers voted down a plan to include wrestling in the 1956-57 schedule of events. The proposal, which was suggested early this fall, leaves the intramural fall program with touch football, and A and B volleyball.

Competition for fall term begins today with games scheduled in the afternoon in football.

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