

EMERALD Sports

Duck Tracks

By JACK WILSON
Emerald Sports Editor

Once again PCC is off and running. There was a time when a meeting of the presidents' council or the conference representatives excited little or no interest, but lately every such meeting has touched off a gaint string of controversial firecrackers that explode up and down the coast. Last Friday's meeting of the representatives started a new wave of discontent, this time from some different corners.

Previous meetings, which generally ended in a heavy penalty against one or both of the big Los Angeles institutions, brought bellows of pain and cries of "get out of the conference!" from the smog-bound metropolis. Now the conference brass is thinking seriously of liberalizing the athletic aid code, and the shoe appears to be on the other foot.

The new financial aid code, if it is finally approved, will allow the student athlete to receive the full difference between what he can afford and the costs of education, even if that difference is greater than the amount he could earn at a regular grant-in-aid job. The new code also eliminates grants-in-aid for athletes who can afford to go to college on their own. Apparently, if the student's father is bankrupt, and a broken arm keeps him from working during the summer, he could receive upwards of \$500, in addition to what he earns at his campus job.

To Pay or Not to Pay

Chancellor Clark Kerr of California thinks such a code will turn college athletes into "hired gladiators." There have been similar mutterings from Stanford, which along with Oregon was a dissenter to the conference's tentative go-ahead. The presidents' council, which always has the final say, in its December 2 meeting, asked the representatives to work out a program which embodied the establishment of an outside agency to determine need, and disapproval of "free rides." Now some of the presidents apparently think the "free ride" angle was forgotten completely by their representatives.

It would be nice if we could, indeed, treat athletes like any other students when they are not competing, as Dr. Kerr would have it. But American colleges have brewed themselves a stew of professionalism and their stuck with it. It doesn't do any good for one or two to throw it out, at least from a national viewpoint, because it just leaves more for the bigger schools.

This proposal sounds pretty good to us, for one reason only. If honest schools can offer a boy all his education, it puts them on nearly the same bargaining plain with schools which have been offering him that all along. A \$300-400 grant-in-aid can never compare, in the eyes of a shrewd high school athlete, with the piles of cash and big-paying, no-work jobs that unscrupulous schools have been known to hand out. Let's face it, Dr. Kerr, college football players ARE hired gladiators. They have been that way for many autumns, and nothing is about to change that slightly unpleasant face of life.

Who Wants to Watch Students?

All we can do is try to take the monopoly away from some of the wealthier buyers of the gladiators, and this new code seems to be our best chance. Roger Kahn made a very pertinent, if somewhat sarcastic, comment in the December 22 issue of *The Nation*: "Drive out the tramp athlete . . . or stop recruiting farmhands . . . and what have you got left to play football? You've got students, that's what, and once you've seen one student play, you've seen them all." And nobody, we might add, pays to see students play football.

But there are exceptions, the most notable of which around here is the amazing Mr. Philip McHugh. He made the honor roll for fall term, and he also made the all-coast first team and played in most of the Shrine East-West game. It's a privilege to be able to pay to watch a student like that play football.

Stanford, Cal Voice Withdrawal Threats

By JACK STEVENSON
SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Oil poured on troubled Pacific Coast Conference athletic waters has caught fire.

Reports of possible bolts from the Conference, which heretofore have centered on UCLA and the University of Southern California, were heard today at Stanford and the University of California.

UCLA and USC, hardest hit last summer by penalties for illegal aid to athletes, had urged more liberal help for football players and students participating in other varsity sports. Last Friday the Conference adopted in principle a new code for financial assistance.

After passing by a 7-2 vote with Stanford and Oregon against it, the new aid proposal hit stormy going immediately. Chancellor Clark Kerr of the University of California termed it a step toward professionalism, although it falls far short of the "free rides" provided in some major conferences.

Today President Robert Gordon Sproul of California, whose authority extends over both the Berkeley and UCLA campuses, indicated he favors a plan of special assistance only during the competitive playing seasons.

Dr. Wallace Sterling, Stanford President, said: "We will have to reexamine the effect of Conference action on Stanford's participation in inter-collegiate athletics."

President A. L. Strand of Oregon State admitted he "went along reluctantly" with the new plan.

President O. Meredith Wilson of Oregon said his school's approval was given on "only general outlines of the program."

"There is much to be done," he added.

President D. R. Theophilus of Idaho declared: "The principles of the new financial code are sound—but the program will be difficult to develop."

The Conference runs smack into those difficulties May 19-23 at Spokane, Wash., when it meets to work out details.

The new code provides that

student-athletes receive aid on the basis of need as determined by an independent outside agency. The athlete would be required to work a specified amount of time but if his earnings, plus funds his family is able to contribute, are not sufficient, he would be allowed a subsistence grant-in-aid.

No post-meeting comments came from USC, UCLA, Washington or Washington State.

Dr. Kerr said he was in favor of help for athletes during their seasons of competition, when they could not be expected to carry a full work load but added:

"I am absolutely opposed to any kind of subsidy for athletes outside their playing seasons. They are just like any other students then and should be able to work their way through school."

Kerr said the PCC should reconsider its decision at the May meeting and approve the PCC Presidents' Council recommendation of last Dec. 2 that allows some subsidy in season, but none out of season.

Asked if California might pull out of the PCC if changes were not made, Dr. Kerr said such might be considered or the school "might refuse to go along."

The PCC financial code which has been in effect previously allows a grant-in-aid to cover tuition and fees only and on-campus work in which an athlete can earn up to \$100 monthly at \$2 an hour. Bonafide off-campus work also was permitted but the new plan would forbid it except under special situations.

Noteworthy in the squabble following last week's Conference action was a statement by Dr. Glenn T. Seaborg, California's faculty representative for athletics, who cast California's vote in favor of the plan.

"I do not differ from the basic philosophy with regard to financial aid to athletes as expressed by Dr. Kerr, Seaborg said. "The plan worked out only in principle by the PCC last Friday is a compromise, middle-ground between the two extreme views, the so-called free ride on the one hand and that of no special aid to athletes on the other hand."

Scholastic Difficulties Hit UO Swim Squad

Things have gone from bad to worse as far as the University of Oregon swimming situation is concerned.

It was learned yesterday from John Borchardt, the affable UO tank mentor, that four top prospects of the current Webfoot swim entry will be lost to the squad for the remainder of the season.

Two of the big men that fell by the wayside and were counted on to carry the bulk of the load for the Ducks, are out of school while the other pair voluntarily withdrew because of pressing grades.

Team Outlook Glum

That, quite obviously, leaves Borchardt with a whale of a gap to fill. Even before the recent turn of events the outlook for 1957 was rather sparse, and now with only three top notch swimmers and a diver remaining in the fold and a rugged Pacific Coast Conference schedule not too far off the outlook is dismal to say the least.

However, Borchardt said that

nothing official will be decided on how to remedy the situation until athletic director Leo Harris returns to Eugene on or around January 18. But there is a distinct possibility that the dual meets that are on tap in a few weeks may have to be suspended.

PCC Meet Ahead

Meanwhile, though, Borchardt is going right ahead making the most out of the little that remains in an effort to ready his few stalwarts for the annual AAU meet and the Pacific Coast Conference competition which begins in early March. The AAU tournament is slated for Portland on the 19th and 20th of this month.

Borchardt pointed with further dismay to the freshman squad where the same problem has been created due to the ineligibility of key performers.

This is not the first time the University has experienced a lean year from the swimming angle but it is definitely the most discouraging plight it has faced since the days of World War II.

"An important question is whether any unearned portion of the subsistence grant-in-aid should apply to the off-season as well as the on-season period, of the sport or sports. I favor limiting the unearned subsistence grant-in-aid to the on-season period, making it necessary to earn all income other than that equivalent to the tuition grant-in-aid during the off-season period. I shall work toward this objective."

Dr. Sproul said in a statement: "The recommendations of the Presidents' Council of the PCC, approved on Dec. 2, 1956, was a statement of principles, including: (1) The establishment by an outside agency of the need of each applicant for aid, and (2) disapproval of free rides."

"If the formula developed by the PCC differs in philosophy or substance, or however you want to say it, from the principles approved by the presidents, I shall be opposed to it."

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