

EMERALD Sports

Duck Tracks

By BOB MULLIN
Emerald Sports Writer

What's happened to high scoring basketball?

The astronomical scoring figures of the past few years have dropped sharply this year. The nation's top team, Kansas, despite their national scoring leader Wilt Chamberlin, scored only 37 points in losing their first game of the season to Iowa State. In the Christmas holiday tournament at Corvallis, the University of San Francisco connected for only 12 points in the first half of their game against Oregon State.

There was the day when 30 points was enough to win a ball game. Back in 1916, the first year of the Pacific Coast Conference, the University of California scored less than 26 points per game in winning the Conference title. But the game has changed over the years. Names like Bob Pettit, Frank Selvy, Darrell Floyd and Bevo Francis have inspired fans and rule makers to support an offensive game.

As a result, the 1950's have seen record-breaking scores and scorers rise and fall as fast as it takes another team to run onto the floor. Colleges and universities all over the nation have added a third digit to their score boards to accommodate the multitude of 100 plus scores racked up by teams in a game.

100 Point Barrier Broken

Tiny West Virginia Tech has broken the 100 point barrier over the past two seasons. Their 100.5 average in 1956 followed their record shattering 107.5 points a game offense in 1955. Furman broke through the 90 points a game average in 1953, with their two scoring kings, Selvy and Floyd, they have done it ever since.

Defense seems a thing of the past. Last year, only five schools allowed less than 60 points per game. Morehead State, last year's major college offensive leaders, gave their opponents more than 86 points per game.

This year, however, major college basketball has slowed down more than at any time during the past five years. Only one 90 plus scoring team survives and though Chamberlin has averaged slightly better than 30 points per game, he is the only one and even his record is a far cry from the 41.7 standard set by Selvy in 1954, not to speak of Francis' minor college record of 46.5 points per game. Are the days gone when Francis scored 116 points in, one game and Selvy scored 100? It looks like the game of basketball has settled back into its easy chair for a rest.

Deliberate Game Back?

Perhaps offensive basketball is taking a back seat to the "old-fashioned" defensive, deliberate type of play. It's doubtful, however, for high scores draw the fans, and fans put a school on the map. The team that scores the mostest makes the mostest money and college officials know this. Their team may not win many games, but they're colorful.

So far this season, Washington leads the PCC in scoring with 76 points per game, far short of UCLA's 83 point average last year. Individually, Washington State's Larry Beck is the only 20 point scorer in the Conference with a 20.5 average per game. The season is still young, but most of the teams have the toughest part of their schedules to play. Whether the case is that defenses are better or offenses are worse is a question only time can tell.

For the point-happy sports fan, however, there is still hope. There are many new stars now developing. And this year could be termed as a rebuilding year in search for more high-scoring talent. After all, isn't Chamberlin only a sophomore? How about Washington's sophomore whiz, Doug Smart?

Indications are that the 1956-57 basketball season is just a lull before the storm. When the storm hits, who knows how many they'll score.

Wandering Ducks Return, Open Idaho Series Friday

By TOM CHAPMAN
Emerald Sports Writer

The Oregon Ducks, the "happy wanderers of the PCC," return to McArthur Court for the first time in a month with a two game series against the Idaho Vandals this weekend, and one thing is a certainty: one of the two teams will get their first conference victory.

The Webfoots, 0-2 in PCC play, and the Vandals, winless in five starts, square off Friday night in the first of two, each team having high hopes of pulling out of the conference cellar.

For Oregon basketball fans, it will be the first home contest since Dec. 18, when the Rice Owls edged the Ducks 63-61. Since then, the Ducks have been on the road for six games, winning but one of these.

They should be hungry for the Vandals though. Head Coach Steve Belko sent his squad of 14 through two hours of drills and scrimmage Wednesday, including a new ball control maneuver. His starting line-up remained forwards Eli Morgan and Charlie Franklin, center Hal Duffy and guards Bud Kuykendall and Wimp Hastings.

The Vandals, who played without their ace scorer and head coach last weekend



HARLAN HODGES
Vandal Boss Feeling Better

against the Washington Huskies, will make their first appearance in Eugene since 1955. Gary Simmons, peppercorn junior guard was sidelined early in the season with an ankle injury and will not see action either night against the Webfoots.

Vandal Coach Harlan Hodges stayed in Moscow last week after an illness, and listened to his team lose two games to the

Huskies. Hodges is expected to make the trip against the Ducks, however.

Top scoring threats for the Vandals, Jerry Jorgenson, Gary McEwen and Jim Branom are expected to carry the load against the Ducks. McEwen has scored 48 points in four PCC contests this year, but Jorgenson and Branom offer excellent rebounding strength. Jorgenson is a 6'4" forward and Branom stands 6'7". Both are juniors.

Belko, for one of the few times this season, can count noses and get a full squad this week. Ed Bingham, kept out of the Cal series with a bruised ankle, returned to drills Monday with a slight limp but is expected to see action against Idaho. Otherwise, the Webfoots are in top shape, with the rest of the names checked off the injury list.

The varsity action is slated for 8 p.m. both nights, with the Oregon Ducklings playing preliminaries before the two PCC tussles. Friday, the Frosh battle a Eugene AAU team, Hennen-Vos, and they go up against the Multnomah Athletic Club Saturday.

The Saturday night clash will pit brother against brother, as ex-Webfooter Max Anderson will start against his younger brother Jerry, the Ducklings first line forward.

Frosh Meet MAC, Hennen-Vos in Tilts

Oregon's freshman basketball team went through offensive and defensive drills Wednesday in preparation for their two weekend games against Multnomah Athletic Club and Hennen-Vos (Eugene (AAU)).

The MAC five boasts many five ex-collegiate players and will face the Ducklings Friday at 5:45 in McArthur Court. Interest will center around the Anderson brothers who will be playing on opposite teams.

Jerry Anderson probably will be starting at the forward slot for the frosh, while his brother Max, star on last year's varsity squad, will start at center for Multnomah.

The Ducklings will face Hennen-Vos Saturday night, same

time, same place. The Eugene AAU quintet boasts a fine record in the City League, winning their last start 69-47.

Frosh Coach Don Kirsch will probably use the same starting five he used against the Portland U. juniors and Clark College. In winning both of those games, the starting squad for the Ducklings was at forwards, Anderson and Stu Robertson; at center, Dale Jones; at the guard positions, Chuck Rask and Dave Lundstrom.

Scoring leader for the Ducklings for their first two games was Lundstrom with 32 points. Next in order come Rask with 29, Anderson with 28, Jones with 24, and Robertson with 23.

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