

EMERALD Sports

Duck Tracks

By JACK WILSON
Emerald Sports Editor

Swan song columns in The Emerald seem to be in style this month, and far be it from the sports department to run against the current. Herewith the offering of the soon-to-be-replaced sports editor.

This early staff changeover makes it difficult to review the year's sports activities — we're right in the thick of most of them, and nobody's particularly interested in a rehash of football and basketball in the middle of baseball and track seasons. But something that we've observed in the world of collegiate sports does bear commentary. Professionalism.

Perhaps a definition is in order. Faculty and students at every institution of higher learning in the land will tell you that professionalism in college athletics is a bad thing, and they will go on to tell you how glad they are that their school is not tainted with the deadly disease. But try to pin them down for an explanation of the term, and you're likely to come up with as many answers as there are schools.

You can go from tiny Ivy League schools where professionalism consists of any kind of financial aid that is not based strictly on scholarship, to the huge, state-supported colleges where gold trim on the quarterback's Cadillac might be considered professionalism. But whatever the standard, each school will be certain sure that it does not refer to the home situation — only "the other guys" would be low enough to make a professional sport out of a game played by and for college students.

Cries of Anguish

That's why we hear nothing but moaning and groaning every time a conference hands out penalties for wrongdoing. "You've got us all wrong," they cry. "Our beloved coach and dignified alumni would never stoop to violating their school's honor just for the sake of winning." But later, when the facts are known, do we get an apology from the school, with a promise to do better?

Not exactly. What we get is a demand that the rules be changed, with the rationalization that "they're outdated" and "they don't apply to the tougher competition of today's game." Maybe it's a sort of "zeitgeist," as Dr. Wright would put it, a spirit of the age, that makes winning more important than right and honor. Or maybe it's just that the profit that come out of winning have too high a value to our money-conscious minds. (Money is good; a T-formation quarterback will bring in money at the gate; therefore any means to procure him are good.)

How about the situation at Oregon? Being unable to see the forest for the trees, we're in a rather poor position to judge. On the face of it, Oregon looks — and has been labeled by some Los Angeles sportswriters — the "simon pure" of the conference. They undoubtedly have been infractions of conference regulations somewhere along the line but, we trust, nothing too serious. We don't think there's going to be a major breaking-of-the-faith on the part of any athletic department official in the near future, but a good question to ask ourselves is, "how would I react if the PCC fathers decided that Oregon was making professionals out of her athletes?"

Would we get mad, try to strike back with "let's get out of this sissy's conference?" Or would we accept the decision as a good one and try to put our house in order. It's a rather tough question to answer, but it's important. Do we actually realize the incompatibility of professional athletics with a university situation? Or do we just accept what "those above" decide is right.

If it's the latter, we are indeed the "brainwashed generation."

AS DUCKS FACE VANDALS...

Dodge Out for Rest of Year With Practice Game Injury.

A short vacation from Northern Division baseball activity proved costly for the Oregon Ducks: regular Webfoot first-baseman Ron Dodge will miss the rest of the ND season, after a practice-session knee injury Saturday.

Dodge, a sophomore from Olympia, Wash., was cracked on the knee-cap by a hard line drive during Saturday's drill and subsequent X-rays revealed that the 6'1" first-sacker had suffered a fractured patella, serious enough to put him in Sacred Heart Hospital, and out of action for the rest of the Oregon schedule. Further examination of Dodge's leg will determine if an operation is necessary.

Last year, he stayed out of

competition to make an amateur all-star jaunt to South Africa. In ND play thus far, Dodge hasn't hit his stride, with two hits out of 15 chances for a .133 average, but his four RBI's were among Oregon's best.

With a two-game series against surprising Idaho due this afternoon and tomorrow, Coach Don Kirsch and 17 of his Ducks practiced Sunday afternoon, and part of their drill period was spent looking for a replacement for Dodge. The Oregon director had numerous first-base aspirants trying out, with sophomore Jim Rice getting the ultimate nod for his first starting job.

"Idaho" has a tough ball club

this year," was Kirsch's opinion of the upstart Vandals yesterday. "They've got one of the strongest pitching staffs around, and it's pretty obvious that they can play good ball."

Kirsch was referring to the Idahoans' performances against Washington: they won two and lost two more by narrow margins against the strong Huskies, and in none of these games did they allow more than seven hits. From Idaho, this is surprising — in 25 years of competition, they have finished last an even 20 times, with two break-even seasons their best.

Drawing from his well-stocked bullpen, Kirsch picked veteran Stan Dmochowsky to hurl today's game, and he listed either Don Lane or Ron Whittaker as his choice against the Vandals tomorrow.

Game time for both Howe Field contests is 3 p.m.

Leading Oregon batter after four tilts is hard-slugging third year man Terry Maddox, with .412. Maddox, the home run hero of last week's pair of close wins from WSC, has seven hits out of 17, and his seven RBI's are also tops for Oregon.

Only other regulars over the .300 level is Wimp Hastings, at .389 (7 for 18). The ex-Bandon basketball star is leading scorer, with five runs.

The Ducks are still slightly below par as a hitting team, with a .273 squad average bolstered primarily by this pair. But in four games they've outscored their foes, 24-19. The Oregonians are presently tied with OSC for first spot in the Northern Division, with a 3-1 mark. Washington and Idaho are next, with 3-3 and 2-2, and Washington State brings up the rear guard with 1-5.

Last Inning Home Run Gives Frosh 3-1 Win

By HOLLY HUTCHINS
Emerald Sports Writer

The Oregon Frosh made it five in a row this weekend as they trounced the inexperienced Tornado from Medford High, 14-1, and staged a last-inning comeback to edge the OSC Rooks, 3-1.

FROSH 14, MEDFORD 1

Joe Martin, ex-Central Catholic of Portland star, held Medford to two hits and one run as the Ducklings completely overwhelmed the Tornado Friday. Martin, who pitched the first four innings, exhibited beautiful style and control as he walked only three and struck out eight. Medford's lone run came in the third inning.

Oregon had four big innings, the third being the biggest with seven runs on five hits.

Frosh Coach Norv Ritchey used a total of three pitchers in the game. Martin pitched the first four, Jerry Pflug relieved Martin and pitched one inning when he was replaced by Jim Dickson who finished the seven inning ball game. Medford used only two pitchers.

R H E

UO Frosh 037-220-0—14-13-1
Medford Hi 001-000-0—1-4-3
Martin, Pflug, Dickson and Granquist; Brewster, Tyler, Laurance and McLaughlin.

FROSH 3, OSC ROOKS 1

What looked like a well-earned win for the Oregon State Rooks suddenly blew up in their faces when ex-The Dalles flash Pat Foley scratched off an impressive OSC 1-0 lead in the bottom of the ninth by blasting a 380-foot home run over the left field fence with two Ducklings aboard.

Hugh Springer for the Frosh, and Gary Moore for the Rooks, put on a beautiful pitching duel. Moore kept the Ducklings scoreless and almost hitless until that fateful ninth inning. He issued only one walk while putting down eight Frosh on strikeouts. Springer had a record almost as impressive as he gave up three walks and struck out four.

Springer started rather shakily as the Rooks got three of their six hits in the first two innings to score their only run.

Bill Rudzik started the inning by singling to left and advancing to third on a pair of fielder's choice plays. With two down, Gary Moore slashed a hard single down the first base line scoring Rudzik.

From then on to the end of

the game Springer pitched beautiful three-hit ball, not allowing one Rook past second. Moore did the same for the Rooks.

Ed Syring started off the last-inning with the fourth single off Moore. Ron Betner hit a deep grounder to short, making a chance for a double play, but shortstop Grimm Mason threw high to second baseman Larry Walker leaving all hands safe.

Foley stepped into the batter's box, took a look at one pitch, then teed off on a big, fat curve ball that screamed 380 feet over the left field fence.

R H E

OSC Rooks 010-000-000—1-6-2
UO Frosh 000-000-003—3-5-2
Springer and Granquist; Moore and Rudzik.

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