

Duck Tracks

By **BOB MULLIN**
Emerald Sports Editor

The headline above the lead story in the Jan. 15 edition of the Humboldt Times, Eureka, Calif., daily newspaper, read:

500 Persons Pay Honor To Len Casanova Here

Man Who Toted Pigskin From Ferndale High To Rose Bowl Feted

Eureka was laying out the welcome mat to Oregon's head football coach, the man who led the Ducks to national fame in the Pasadena Rose Bowl. Casanova and his wife Dixie were the guests of honor at a testimonial dinner there, 35 years after the now-famous mentor was a star halfback on the 1923 Ferndale High School team. Here's Times Sports Editor Al Tostado's report of that testimonial dinner:

"'Old Blues' from virtually every college and university on the West Coast forgot their own school's hues and were all old Humboldters for a few hours as they gathered to pay tribute to one of their own here last night. More than five hundred persons were on hand for the testimonial dinner honoring Leonard J. Casanova, head football coach at the University of Oregon, who reached the pinnacle of gridiron success just 15 days ago.

"The large dining room of the new exhibit building at Redwood Acres was filled to capacity with gentlemen and their ladies eager to spend a moment or two with the Eel River Valley farm boy who is currently the talk of the football world. And it was a humble and sincere 'Cas' who climaxed the three-hour affair with a highly entertaining resume of his life from his birth on a Grizzly creek farm, through Ferndale High school and up to the Rose Bowl Game of January 1, 1958 at Pasadena, Calif.

Cas Happy With Old Friends

"It went without saying that all of those present last night were well aware of what he and his team of 1957 had done in that game—refusing to be underdogs to anyone and going against all expert pre-game predictions. Casanova told of how it has been his privilege in the past few days to meet with dignitaries from all walks of life, including high government officials, but how none of these occasions have given him the warmth and inner good feeling that being back among old friends and neighbors has done.

"He cited the lessons he had learned in the day of his youth in Humboldt as the things which most stood him in good stead as he prepared himself and his team for the now-famous game of two weeks ago.

"'Cas' told of his birth on a farm where he was the second youngest of six and attributed this fact as one which made him most aware very early in life of what it means to be an 'underdog.' While retraveling the road from Ferndale to Pasadena, Casanova occasionally took time out to interject an anecdote or two about former team and classmates in the audience as well as to voice a note of gratitude to persons who have given him a helping hand along his way.

"Casanova credited his sisters, Katherine Casanova and Mrs. Sumner Damon, as the driving forces behind his entry into the University of Santa Clara where he played his college ball and later coached. 'Cas' explained that as the second youngest of six, 'at that time, my sisters were older than me but now they're younger than I am.'

Bad Moments Recalled

"Casanova has been at Oregon for the past seven years and despite the great success of this past season, he remembers the lean times early in his career at Eugene. He told of returning home after an unsuccessful Saturday afternoon to be greeted by his daughter with the remark—"you lost again, huh. You ain't much of a coach, are you?" And how his only recourse was to tell her not to say 'ain't.'

"Casanova revealed that Oregon had been very good to him and he likened the people there to the people of his native Humboldt. 'They are loyal to me, to the school, their community and their state just as you are,' he said. 'Cas' admitted that he has not been a full-time resident of Humboldt county for some 35 years but added that one of these days he and his charming wife, Dixie, hope to become full-time residents."

Comment: Who ever said, "Nice guys finish last." A man with the sincere, humble character of Len Casanova will always finish first whether his teams do or not. The editorial page of the Times carried a three-column, life-like sketch of Cas and we repeat its overline as an expression of our feelings here in Oregon as well as in Eureka and everywhere else for that matter: "We Salute You—Len Casanova."

Phi Delts, Betas Win B Opening Round Action

The second week of 1958 intramural basketball league opened yesterday with three games; one in A division and two in the B category. Emerging victorious were Amazon Village A and the B teams from Beta Theta Pi and Phi Delta Theta.

Phi Delts got off on the right foot in Monday's action by defeating Sigma Chi 22-15. The Phi Delts are the defending champions in B division.

Beta Theta Pi B defeated Sigma Phi Epsilon yesterday and appear to be one of the stronger teams in B competition. Final score favored the Betas by 28-15.

Amazon Village opened their season yesterday by downing once victorious Northwest Christian College by a 33-26 count. NCC now has a record of 1-1 and Amazon Village has a perfect 1-0.

Amazon Triumphs

Amazon Village, hitting well from the outside, got off to a big lead, and then staved off a last half threat to edge Northwest Christian College 33-26 in the opening game of Monday's intramural action.

Forward Jim Carlile of Amazon Village was individual high scorer with 10 important counters. 6'5" Glenn McKerrow and Bob Bray, both with eight points, led the losers.

Box Score:
Amazon (33) (26) NCC
Carlile (10) F (8) Bray
Humph. (8) F (4) Dobbins
Reeves (6) C (8) McKerrow
Johnson (4) G (2) Snell
Barret (2) G (2) Johns
Scoring subs: Amazon—Martinson (2), Moore (1); NCC—Moore (1), Skoogland (1).

Betas Win Again

Sigma Phi Epsilon's B team bowed to the tall and rugged Beta Theta Pi B's, 28-15 in a game that saw the Betas dominate the boards and the scoring all the way.

Gene Estes, Larry Sellers and Ron Sogge paced the Betas with six points apiece. The Beta B team has several players who

played high school basketball and one member who saw action on last year's unbeaten Oregon frosh team. Betas appear to be in the thick of the race for the championship in both A and B competition.

Box Score:
Betas (28) (15) Sig Eps
Estes (6) F (5) Chase
Sellers (6) F (4) Kelling.
Sogge (6) C (2) Fratzke
Twidwell (4) F (2) Squires
Mills (2) G (2) Gummer
Scoring subs: Betas—Allen (2), McCreight (2). Sig Eps—none.

Phi Delts Gain

Phi Delta Theta's smooth operating quintet outgunned Sigma Chi 22-15 in intramural B league basketball yesterday. Phi Delts are defending B league champions as they won the title last year.

Pacing the Phi Delt attack were Fred Lennard with seven points and Tom Johnson with six. Darrel Ashbacher led Sigma

Chi attack with six.

Box Score:
Phi Delts (22) (15) Sigma Chi
Lennard (7) F (6) Ashbacher
Johnson (6) F (4) Waud
Walp (3) C (3) Jensen
Galloway (2) G (2) Grottkau
Fraser (4) G Morris
Scoring subs: Phi Delts—none; Sigma Chi—none.

IM Schedule

Tuesday, Jan. 21
Basketball

- 3:50 Young B vs. Smith B, Court 40; Stafford B vs. Sweetzer B, Court 43.
 - 4:35 University Arms B vs. Sheldon B, Court 40; Alpha B vs. Douglas B, Court 43.
 - 5:15 Alpha Tau Omega B vs. Phi Kappa B, Court 40; Delta Tau Delta B vs. Theta Chi B.
- Handball**
- 4:00 Young vs. Tau Kappa Epsilon.

CIVIC LEADER?



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