

Duck Tracks

By LARRY KURTZ
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No doubt about it. This year's Pacific Coast Conference basketball race is going to go right down to the wire, and nearly every team, with the possible exception of one or two, is still in the thick of the battle.

A quick look at the standings reveals that the UCLA Bruins are currently in the driver's seat, having won five and lost two, while California and Stanford are in hot pursuit.

PCC race tight

Even the next five teams are no more than three games out of first place. USC, Idaho, Washington, Oregon and Oregon State are all within striking distance, while the Washington State Cougars appear to be the only squad "out of it" with a 1-5 mark to date.

In total, each team has 16 games, playing a home-and-home series with every squad in the league. UCLA is almost halfway through its slate, and appears to be the best bet so far, but the Bruins still have to come up north to meet the Ducks and the Beavers.

Perhaps this tightly-knotted race is only fitting, since this is the last time the PCC will operate as a basketball league. Someone, at least, will be able to say that they were "the last PCC basketball champions," but who it will be remains to be seen.

Although the coast has often been criticized as a "weak sister" to some of the other conferences across the nation, a look at the rosters of a few squads would indicate otherwise.

Smart, Boin colorful

Certainly no one can dispute that Doug Smart and Bruno Boin, Washington's famed "tree-top twins" are a pair of the most colorful cagers in the nation, and comprise one of the most fearsome scoring combinations anywhere.

Then, too, there's UCLA's Walt Torrence, who has played against some of the country's best since he was a sophomore, and has come out quite well. Add to the Bruin guard another fancy-dan with the ball, Lee Harman of Oregon State, and you have a pair of sure-fingered, capable backcourt men in the fold.

Oregon's ball-hawking Chuck Rask, and Stanford's high-scoring Paul Neumann take a back seat to no one when it comes to cage ability, either.

Others who must rate some mention include USC's burly Jim Hanna, Idaho's twin forward threats, John Liveious and Whaylon Coleman, and California's fine trio of Denny Fitzpatrick, Darrell Imhoff and Al Buch, the man with the long overhead two-hander.

Conference not weak

When it all boils down, the closeness of the PCC race does not indicate a general conference weakness. In fact, in this case, it's the exact opposite. Washington's pre-season favorites, who dished out plenty in non-league affairs, have suddenly found themselves pushed into the background just a little bit by the likes of the California Bears, two-time defending PCC champ, who knocked off Tippy Dye's five in a pair of encounters, both times by more than ten points.

The Bears, too, have had it rough in turn, as Oregon and Stanford both registered upset victories and relegated the Berkeley quintet to a second-place standing behind UCLA.

Even the conference-leading Bruins have run into unforeseen opposition, dropping a humiliating 71-54 decision to lowly WSC, and thereby giving the Cougars their only conference win to date.

To sum up, the whole conference is well-balanced and every team is capable of upsetting the other on any given night. That's more than could be said a few years ago. Only time will tell who is going to cop the trophy, but PCC fans can be assured that their last representative to the NCAA tourney will be a good one.

Betas, Phi Deltas, SN win

Tuesday intramural basketball action in "B" league play, saw a full slate of six games go by the boards, most of them well-played affairs.

Kappa Sigma dumped Tau Kappa Epsilon 22-16; Phi Delta Theta tripped Theta Chi 31-29; Delta Upsilon trounced Sigma Alpha Mu 39-8; Beta Theta Pi rolled Delta Tau Delta 40-13; Phi Gamma Delta tripped Chi Psi 28-11; and Sigma Nu defeated Sigma Alpha Epsilon 25-17.

Kappa Sigs win

Brooks Crosier tanked 10 points to top Kappa Sigma's win over Tau Kappa Epsilon, as the winners jumped to a 16-2 lead at halftime and coasted in for the victory.

Keith Gubrud pumped nine points in a losing effort for the Tekes, who couldn't get going after the bad first half.

Kappa Sigs (22) (16) Tekes
Seine (6) F (1) Wooly
Arms (2) F (0) Kesterson
Crosier (10) C (4) Wolters
Mitchell (0) G (0) Parker
Ellis (4) G (2) Bright
Subs: Tekes — Gubrud (9).

SAE bounced

In the afternoon's only other game, Sigma Nu topped Sigma Alpha Epsilon 25-17, with O'Connor showing the way with eight points. Dale Stillwell, SAE sub, led all point-getters with nine.

Sigma Nu took a 15-11 half-time advantage and doubled their margin of victory in the final two periods for their first win in "B" action.

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Sigma Nu (25) (17) SAE
Hager (3) F (2) Anderson
Tourville (0) F (0) Ritter
O'Connor (8) C (4) Horton
Davidson (6) G (2) Carroll
Roth (6) G (9) Stillwell.

T. C. edged

Phi Delta Theta topped Theta Chi in the day's hardest-fought affair, winning 31-29 after holding a four-point advantage at halftime.

Gene Costi pushed in nine points to lead the victors, who had to go right down to the wire before edging the spirited Hilltoppers, whose Ron Anderson tied for high point honors for the contest.

Phi Deltas (31) (29) Theta Chi
Hartstrom (5) F (2) Bocken
Erickson (2) F (6) Edstrom
Lennard (6) C (9) Anderson
Creager (7) G (2) Blue
Costi (9) G (2) Olsen
Subs: Theta Chi—Stover (6),
Wernsing (1).

DU victorious

Delta Upsilon had no trouble at all in bombing an outmanned Sigma Alpha Nu quintet 39-8, in the most one-sided affair of the afternoon.

High point man for the game was DU Siver, who racked up 12 tallies, while teammate Metz followed with 8. DU held a 13-3 half-time lead.

SAM (8) (39) DU
Katz (0) F (4) Pacquin
Miller (2) F (4) McKrola
Litt (3) C (12) Siver
Lesch (0) G (8) Metz
Hasson (3) G (7) McCormk
Subs: DU—Barlow (4).

Betas roll

Beta Theta Pi rambled to a 21-point halftime margin and added

six more markers difference to it in the final two periods to stomp Delta Tau Delta 40-13.

Dodge was high man for the game with 13 points, followed by Al Mills with 10. Jim Baker recorded six points for the Deltas.

Delts (13) (40) Betas
Welland (2) F (2) Estes
McCormk (0) F (10) Mills
Baker (6) C (0) Cochran
Whitney (1) G (7) Bashor
Risinger (2) G (8) Sogge
Subs: Deltas—Wirth (2). Betas—Dodge (13).

Fijis score win

Phi Gamma Delta led all the way in upending Chi Psi 28-11, after holding only a 13-8 half-time advantage.

The losers could get only three points in the entire last half, all by Dick McKinney, who was high for his team with six, while Steve Schell's eight markers topped the Fijis and the game.

Chi Psi (11) (28) Fiji
McKinney (6) F (6) Phillips
Weiblen (1) F (2) Thies
Bellanger (2) C (8) Schell
Dohn (2) G (2) Grebe
Mullin (0) G (6) McGinnis
Subs: Fiji—Debenedeti (2),
Sherwood (2).

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