

'Suicide Swing' Key to Baseball Title

By PHIL SEMAS
Emerald Sports Editor

They call it the "suicide swing."

It's the trip through the Palouse country of Idaho and eastern Washington and then over to Seattle. It means so much in every Northern Division baseball race.

Each year Oregon and Oregon State travel up there with their championship hopes riding on how well they do.

This year is no exception. The Ducks left yesterday morning and play their first game today against Idaho. They meet the Vandals again Thursday and go on to Pullman for games with Washington State Friday and Saturday.

The Webfoots close out the swing against Washington in Seattle Monday and Tuesday.

Oregon holds the ND lead but either the Cougars or Oregon State could still win the crown. "We have the most important part of our season ahead of us," says Duck baseball coach Don Kirsch.

Kirsch analyzes the way his squad has looked so far: "We've had good defense and our hitting has been better than I expected. The pitching hasn't been really outstanding, though."

Kirsch cut his squad to 17 for

the trip. He'll have his eight starters — catcher Ken Jensen, first baseman Sandy Nosler, second baseman Jeff Allen, shortstop Terry Leininger, third baseman Ed Vetter, and outfielders H. D. Murphy, Cal Dean, and Don Banderas.

Also on the squad will be Dennis McCarter, Gordon Avery and Del Jordan.

Kirsch will take six pitchers, Robbie Snow, Arba Ager, Thatch McLeod, Dale Jansen, Wally Palmberg, and Ken Hadden. Snow will start the first day. After that Kirsch says "we'll play it by ear."

McLeod, Ager and Jansen will probably draw the other starting duties, however, with Hadden and Palmberg in relief.

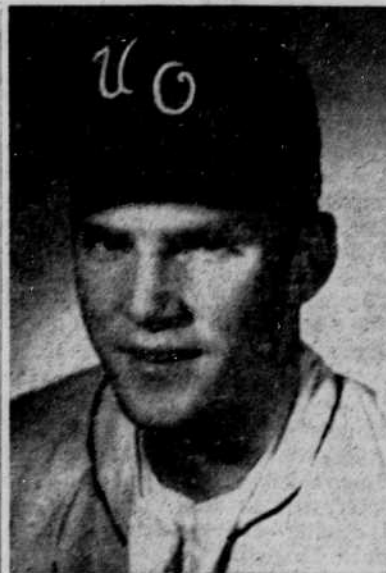
The three teams the Ducks will face are no patsies.

The Vandals have some of the best pitchers and hitters in the league, although they lack the depth to be real contenders for league honors.

The Vandals' top pitchers are Gary Peters and Mike Glenn. But Oregon State handled Peters and the Ducks beat Glenn on Idaho's road trip into Oregon. And behind that pair the Vandals have little.

In the hitting department Tom Hoagland, who's in the top ten in the Northern Division, is about the best the Vandals have. Again they didn't show much depth here.

Washington State is Oregon's real test on the swing. The Ducks



KEN HADDEN
Pitching the Key on Swing

managed to beat the Cougars twice down here but WSU is beginning to look more and more like a title team.

"They're in the driver's seat," agrees Kirsch.

The Cougars are by far the best hitting team in the Northern Division and have the best outlook as far as schedule is concerned. They play only one more game on the road.

A pair of Cougar outfielders, Bob Fry and Bob Garretson, are the leading hitters in the league. Dale Ford and Duane Rossman also hit well for WSU.

The Cougars' looked weak in pitching on that road trip but they appear to have developed one good hurler in Bob Steph-

ens. Stephens is tied with Snow for the ERA lead and had back-to-back shutouts last week.

Washington is the bottom team in the division but they beat the Ducks last weekend and could do it again, especially since they meet the Webfoots on the tail end of the series, right after WSU.

The Huskies looked like a strong hitting team against the Ducks, picking up 25 hits in the two-game series. Tom Kallas, Girard Stone, and Charles Johnson are the top Husky hitters. No single UW pitcher has looked particularly good.

Oregon State hasn't done too well on their suicide swing so far.

But the Ducks must do well if they hope to stay ahead of the Beavers and take the championship.

If the Ducks come out a winner, the "suicide swing" could be suicide for the rest of the Northern Division.

WSU Leads Stats, Oregon Leads ND

For the second week in a row the Oregon baseball team is leading the Northern division pennant chase in everything but statistics.

Take hitting for example. Although the Ducks are leading the league with a 6-2 record they are only third in team hitting with a .247 mark. Washington State is the leader with an amazing .305 mark.

In the individual statistics WSU's Bob Garretson is making a shambles of the batting race. In his last five games through last Saturday Garretson had collected 16 hits in 22 at bats.

That's a .727 clip and it has raised his overall batting average

to .514.

Teammate Bob Fry is in second place with a .488 mark and he also has the most hits, 20. Oregon's H. D. Murphy is in the fourth spot with a .357 average.

Garretson is also setting the pace in RBI's with 12, and doubles with four, and he leads in triples with three.

The Webfoots can claim two of the top three pitchers. Robbie Snow of the Ducks and Bob Stephens of WSU are tied for the top spot, each having a 3-1 record and an ERA of 1.62.

Oregon's Thatch McLeod holds down third, also with a 3-1 record, but has a slightly higher ERA of 1.71.

3 Ducks Improve Track Positions

Three Oregon Webfoots figured in place changes in Northern Division track bests this last weekend.

Although there were changes in position no individual lead changed.

Oregon's Dave Blunt is now tied for the second spot in the 100. Blunt ran a 9.5 to defeat Washington's Jerry Plowman in a dual meet this weekend. Blunt's time tied him with Plowman for the second spot.

Ray Van Asten of the Ducks turned in his best time of the current campaign to move into the second spot in the 880. Van Asten clocked a 1:50.4 to move teammate Don Scott into the third position. Scott clocked a 1:50.7 in the same race.

Oregon continues to lead or share the lead in eight of the 16 listed events.

Northern Division track and field leaders:

100—Harry Jerome, UO, 9.3; Dave Blunt, UO, and Jerry Plowman, UW, 9.5.

220—Jerome, UO, 21.1; Blunt, UO, 21.2; Plowman, UW, 21.3.

440—Gordy Payne, UO, 47.8; Jim Allen, WSU, 48.0; Lynn Eves, OSU, 48.2.

880—Jan Underwood, OSU, 1:50.2; Ray Van Asten, UO, 1:50.4; Don Scott, UO, 1:50.7.

1 Mile—Gordy San Romani, UO, 4:01.2; Morgan Groth, OSU, 4:07.0; Dan Tonn, UO, 4:09.

2 Mile—Ken Moore, UO, 8:48.1; Dale Story, OSU, 8:49.2; Gary Baker, OSU, 8:55.3.

3 Mile—Story, OSU, 13:57.2; John Valiant, WSU, 14:03.4; Clayton Steinke, UO, 14:09.7.

Highs—Marcial Hunter, UO, Gregg Macy, OSU, and Tom Wyatt, OSU, 14.3.

Inter.—Wyatt, OSU, 36.8; Rusty Brown, OSU, and Macy, OSU, 37.5.

High Jump—Paul Stuber, UO, 6-10; Terry Llewellyn, UO, 6-9; Phil Shinnick, UW, 6-7.

Broad Jump—Wariboko West, UW, 25-1 1/4; Shinnick, UW, 25-1 1/2; Joe Wiggs, WSU, 23-10 3/4.

Pole Vault — Nels Siverson, WSU, 15-6; Gerry Moro, UO, 15-5 1/2; Bob Yard, WSU, 15-4.

Triple Jump—West, UW, 49-4 3/4; Wiggs, WSU, 48-3/4; Jerry Talbott, WSU, 47-2 3/4.

Shot Put — Lahcen Samsam, OSU, 56-3/4; Jerry Larsen, UO, 55-4; Harald Lorentzen, WSU, 54-11 1/2.

Discus—Al Pemberton, UW, 178-7; Lou Fasano, OSU, 176-5 1/2; Max Leetzow, I, 169-9.

Javelin—Les Tipton, UO, 263-1 1/2; Buck Kipe, WSU, 245-5; Ron Gomez, 236-0.

HITTING (25 or more at bats)

	AB	H	Avg.	RBI
Bob Garretson, Washington State	35	18	.514	12
Bob Fry, Washington State	41	20	.488	9
Girard Stone, Washington	46	18	.391	6
H. D. Murphy, Oregon	28	10	.357	11
Duane Rossman, Washington State	34	12	.353	6
Gary Strom, Washington State	37	12	.324	5
Stu Thompson, Washington	38	12	.316	3
Rod Trask, Oregon State	29	9	.310	8
Dale Ford, Washington State	36	11	.306	5
Tom Hoagland, Idaho	43	13	.302	6

PITCHING (15 or more innings pitched)

	W	L	IP	ERA
Robbie Snow, Oregon	3	1	32.2	1.62
Bob Stephens, Washington State	3	1	32.1	1.62
Thatch McLeod, Oregon	3	1	21.1	1.71
Steve Clark, Oregon State	4	1	42.1	2.16
Dennis Straub, Oregon State	3	2	39	2.34

INDIVIDUAL LEADERS

RBI—Bob Garretson, WSU, 12; H. D. Murphy, UO, 11; Frank Peters, OSU, 10; Veeder South, OSU, 10.

2B—Bob Garretson, WSU, 4; Dale Ford, WSU; Mike Matheson, UW; Girard Stone, UW; Ed Vetter, UO, 3 each.

3B—Bob Garretson, WSU, 3; Girard Stone, UW, 2.

HR—Gary Luce, 1; Charles Johnson, UW; Frank Peters, OSU; Veeder South, OSU, 3 each.

SB—Bob Fry, WSU, 9; Girard Stone, UW, 5; Rod Trask, OSU, 4.

TEAM STATISTICS

	AB	R	H	HR	2B	3B	HR SB	Pct.
Washington State	325	54	99	45	16	5	7 12	.305
Oregon State	330	53	82	47	9	2	10 12	.248
Oregon	231	44	57	39	10	1	6 8	.247
Washington	416	44	100	32	15	3	6 10	.240
Idaho	384	31	68	26	4	1	7 4	.177

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