

Top Hurling, Hitting Spark Ducks' Successful Swing

By PHIL SEMAS
Emerald Sports Editor

Oregon traditionally does pretty well on the suicide swing.

Last year the Duck baseball squad had probably its worst year in several, losing half its games.

In 1962 the Ducks rolled up a 6-2 record that almost got them a first place.

And in 1961 they were 2-1 on a swing cut short by rain.

This year could be the best of all.

Before he left, coach Don Kirsch admitted that Washington State and not his first place Ducks were in the driver's seat as far as the Northern Division Championships were concerned.

But the Ducks went 4-2 on the trip, splitting with the Cougars. And Kirsch is a little more optimistic about his team's title chances.

"I think it's definitely changed the situation," he says. "The split with Washington State brightened our chances considerably."

The Duck coach is quick to warn, though that "Washington State is far from out of it."

This is the situation: for a clear cut title any combination of Oregon wins and WSU losses totaling two is needed.

Oregon Win or WSU Loss

But any Oregon win or WSU loss will put the Ducks in the West Coast Playoff against USC. Oregon holds a 3-1 edge on the Cougars. That means that all they have to do is tie with Washington State.

But Kirsch would like to win it outright, although his team could go south, losing both games to OSU, provided WSU loses one to Idaho.

"That's not a very thrilling way to win, though," says Kirsch.

Still, taking one from OSU won't be easy. "We'll have our



DON BANDERAS
Best Outfielder in the ND

hands full with the Beavers," said Kirsch. "They have everything to gain and nothing to lose. We'll have to start playing like we did in the first part of the swing."

Play well they did in these first few games. The toughest part of the swing is the Palouse series against Washington State and Idaho. The Ducks came out of that 3-1. But they only split with Washington.

"We were all jittery against Washington," said Kirsch. "We could have wrapped it up against them but we didn't. I thought the pressure was off, but we sure played like we were tense. I think we were very fortunate to win the first game, 4-3."

What looked good to Kirsch?

Pitching, for one thing, in the first three games. "Our pitching was as sharp as it's been all season," said Kirsch.

He singles out his three main starters, Robbie Snow, Thatch McLeod, and Arba Ager, as the standouts. Ager was especially pleasing of that group.

"I didn't think Arba pitched as well this season as he did last year," says Kirsch. "He hasn't thrown as hard. But Friday (he beat Washington State 7-5) he looked good. He had good 'stuff' on the ball and he was throwing hard, too."

Ager also pitched a good game in relief against Washington Monday. "He deserved to be the winner of that one instead of the

loser," added Kirsch.

McLeod had one of his best efforts of the year against Idaho. The Duck pitcher is known for his walks, but he failed to put anyone on base that way.

The pitching dropped a bit against the Huskies. "It was adequate but not particularly sharp," says Kirsch. Wally Palmberg and Ager had good efforts in relief, though.

Best Stats for Ager

Ager had the best stats for the series, giving up just two earned runs and striking out 14 batters in 10 innings pitched.

Snow had three more strikeouts than Ager but he pitched eight more innings.

Hitting? "It was real good through the first four games," said Kirsch. "But not against the Huskies. Their pitchers weren't very good but we didn't take advantage of it."

Kirsch singled out H. D. Murphy and Don Banderas as the hitting standouts. Murphy hit 10 for 25 on the swing and Banderas was nine for 29. Terry Leininger (8 for 24), and Ken Jenson (7 for 18) also earned praises from the Webfoot coach.

Banderas earned special recognition from Kirsch. "He could be the best all around outfielder in the league," grins Kirsch. "It's too bad he got such a late start."

Webfoot Tennis Team Enters Far West Meet

"We'll be fighting like heck for second."

That's Oregon tennis coach Dick Williams' goal this weekend in the Far West Championships at Moscow, Idaho.

Williams reported that the strong Washington team is a heavy favorite in the tourney, so the Ducks will be working for the number two spot.

Other schools competing in the event will be Oregon State, Washington State and hosting Idaho.

Oregon, which has a 6-8 record this year, is sending six men to Idaho. Mike Brundage, Jerry Keuhn, Bob Kendall, Dick Stark, Merwin Logan and Jim Kenin will vie in singles action. Paired off for the two doubles matches are Brundage and Stark and Keuhn and Logan.

Brundage, a sophomore, has put forth the best individual performance this season, as he has gone 7-1 in singles and 4-2 in doubles competition.

Frosh Netmen Meet Med-Dents

Oregon's frosh tennis players take on the Oregon Medical-Dental School team Saturday in Portland.

Duckling coach Don Semon is sending six men against the Med-Dents. In the number one spot is Jeff Lewis; behind him are Bo Miller, Dick Noel, Bob Donnelly, Brian Laurie and Larry Bates.

The visitors, who are 4-2 on the season, will be meeting some strong competition. The Med-Dent crew includes several former Oregon State players; among them is the Beavers' former number two man, Dave Ehling, who was the Mississippi state champion in high school.

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