

EMERALD SPORTS

WEBFOOT-PRINTS . . .

Six-Year String

By **RANDE WILMARTH**
Sports Editor

It doesn't look like the NCAA meet string that the Oregon track team has run out over the past six years will be cut off this spring—as long as the Ducks can get a few performances that compare to the results the team obtained in 1965.

And with the returnees to the Webfoot squad, those performances could be readily obtained.

Oregon hasn't finished lower than fourth place in team scoring since the 1960 NCAA meet, and that fourth position came in 1960. After that date, Bill Bowerman's team took three first places—including last year's co-championship with Southern California—and a second and a third.

Bowerman again has publicly expressed his pessimism, mainly about the weakness of the team as a dual meet winner. But a look at a few of the Oregon returnees will show, at least in championship meets, such as the Northern Division, AAWU and NCAA matches, that the team will again be competitive and a first-rate power:

Bruce Mortenson—a senior this year who, as a junior, won the NCAA steeplechase title and the Northern Division steeplechase crown, and placed second in the AAWU meet in the same event. His best two-mile time is 8:59.2 while he won the NCAA steeplechase title in 9:00.8.

Ken Moore—a senior, two-year letter winner, was a definite factor in Oregon's AAWU win last spring with a double win in the steeplechase and the three-mile. And he would have been certain to place in the NCAA meet (he owns an 8:48.1 all-time best in the two-mile) but for a foot injury. His best mile mark is 4:05.6.

All 260 Pounds of Him . . .

Neil Steinhauer—Oregon's second NCAA champion. He tossed the shot 63-5½ last year and has already topped that mark in competition this season with a throw of 63-5¾ in an open meet at Sacramento last week. That mark, incidentally, is an Oregon school record.

Steinhauer, all 260 pounds of him, is only a junior and thus makes it possible for the defending NCAA, AAWU and Northern Division shot put champion to give the Ducks a boost for another year after this season.

Wade Bell—another junior and a fifth-place finisher in the NCAA meet last spring in the 880. His best half-mile time is 1:48.0 and his top mile mark is 4:06.3.

Gordon Payne—a senior, two-year letterman, and a defending Northern Division champion in the 440. Payne also placed fifth in the 1965 AAWU meet. His best is a 47.5.

Although there's a fine group of sophomores that make up a portion of Bowerman's squad, these veterans will shoulder quite a bit of the load when it comes to scoring points in the Northern Division, AAWU and NCAA meets in May and June. A lack of depth in the field events could be one of the prime causes for a number of losses in dual meets, but performances equalling those scored late last year could again give the Ducks top positions in the big meets.

"If I Had to Lose . . ."

Notes . . .

Oregon's first gymnast to ever qualify for the NCAA meet is competing this weekend in the NCAA gymnastics championships at State College, Pennsylvania.

John Turchi, a junior and a fifth place finisher in the Far West Championships, will compete in the trampoline event . . .

The results of the Oregon-Linfield baseball doubleheader couldn't have ended more favorably Wednesday for the principals involved. Roy Helser's Linfield team split the two games with Don Kirsch's Oregon squad—and Helser, among other things, is Kirsch's uncle.

According to Kirsch, Helser started the Duck mentor in baseball and got him interested in coaching as a career. "If I had to lose to anybody," smiled Kirsch after the contest, "it might as well be to a relative."

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Golf, Tennis Open Year

Oregon varsity tennis and golf teams open competition this weekend with Elwood Kretzinger's golf squad hosting Portland State at the Eugene Country Club at 1:30 p.m. Friday and Vern Ball's tennis team traveling to meet Portland Saturday.

Gay Davis, a sophomore, and Bob Kiesz, a senior, led the golf team in the 72-hole qualifying competition last weekend on the Oakway Championship course. Both scored 296 totals.

Carvel Nelson, third with a 297 mark, scored the round's only hole-in-one with an ace on the 165-yard, 13th hole on the final day.

Other varsity qualifiers were Bill Ward with 298, Tom Kabler 300, Mike Davis 301, Bob Lovejoy 302, Ralph Schafer 305, Rick Knight 306, and Don Morrow 307.

Sophomore Jim Wilkey, with a two on the 465-yard eighth hole, scored the second double eagle ever scored in the 17-year history of the course but failed to qualify.

Jim Taggard led the frosh qualifiers with a medalist total of 308. The Ducklings open the season Saturday at Bend in a match with Bend Country Club members and Oregon alumni.

Bob Donnelly and Bill Miller, both letter winners, pace the tennis squad. Donnelly posted a 12-4 singles mark last year and Miller netted a 12-5 record, also in singles.

Other letter winners returning are Jeff Lewis, 5-8 for the 1965 season, and Bob Dendall, 3-6 in the 1964 campaign.

Sophomores expected to be competing for Ball are Charles

Deardorff, Tom Lehmer and Bob Whitman. Whitman played number one singles for the frosh and

won three and lost three. Deardorff was 5-1 and Lehmer was 1-2 for the frosh.

Sports Slate

Friday

Varsity Baseball — Pacific at Howe Field, 3 p.m.

Varsity Golf—Portland State at Eugene Country Club, 1:30 p.m.

Saturday

Varsity Baseball—Portland (2) at Howe Field, 1:30 p.m.

Varsity Track—Montana State, Oregon Track Club, and Santa Clara Youth Village at Hayward Field, 1 p.m.

Varsity Tennis — Portland at Portland.

Sierra Club Sets Ski Trip Sunday

The Sierra Club has scheduled a ski or snowshoe trip Sunday to Saddle Blanket Mountain, in the Fall Creek area.

All interested persons should sign up on the sheet on the SU Bulletin Board.

The group will leave at 8:30 a.m. Sunday from the SU turnaround on Emerald St. Skiers should be equipped with climbers.

Anyone wishing further information may contact Martin Sage, ext. 2186.



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