

Quack Cracks



Frosh Sports Are Valuable

By DAVE BARONTI
Emerald Sports Editor

ROBERT D. THOMAS, A COLUMNIST for the University of Southern California's campus newspaper, The Daily Trojan, seems to think that the day of the "old" college athlete is past.

The reason is not that he is inferior to his predecessors, but that he is being overshadowed by his high school counterparts and freshman teammates.

"The day when athletes come from high schools to colleges devoid of polish, training, and maturity," writes Thomas, "is past. Today's freshman athlete is a polished product by the time he arrives at a university and in many cases is a veteran of competition with college athletes and international stars."

Thomas uses that reasoning to advance his own argument that freshman sports should be eliminated. For want of an example, he cites UCLA's 7-1 frosh basketball super-star, Lew Alcindor, and SC's own freshman 16-foot pole vaulter, Paul Wilson.

"To ask Lew Alcindor to play freshman basketball when he could be facing varsity competition is a crime," Thomas asserts. "How much does Alcindor learn playing against centers 6-6 and lower, kids he's been scoring on since he was a high school sophomore?"

IT IS ODD THAT THOMAS should use for an argument such a typical case as Alcindor. If Lew Alcindor and Paul Wilson epitomize a Southern Californian's idea of what a typical upcoming athlete is like, then maybe Oregon and Oregon State are in the wrong conference.

Fortunately, Mr. Thomas is wrong. The days of the completely polished and mechanized high school and frosh athletic team is not here. And until a local high school beats the University of Oregon in football, basketball track or baseball, I refuse to believe it.

If you're still not convinced, ask Oregon's Neal Steinhauer if he could throw the 16-pound shot 60 feet—or even 50 feet—in high school. Or Kenny Moore if he could run an 8:40—or even a 9:50—two mile at North Eugene High four years ago. Even better yet, ask Oregon's 1960 Olympic champion and world record holder in the 400 meter dash, Otis Davis, if he had even run a 440 in high school. He hadn't.

NO ONE AROUND HERE IS going to speak for USC or UCLA, but Oregon's freshman program certainly isn't working to the detriment of the general athletic program as Thomas seems to feel that SC's and UCLA's are.

On the contrary, here—and I suspect also there—the programs are a valuable and almost an essential tool.

Picture yourself as a promising college athlete just out of high school. You're a defensive back on the football team and you did pretty well against your prep opponents—maybe made the all-state team.

How well do you think you'd do playing opposite a Steve Bunker or the equivalent your very first game out of high school? More than likely, you'd get beat—badly. Probably, you'd be discouraged, maybe lose confidence in yourself, and possibly even completely give up—mentally if not physically.

THIS IS WHERE FRESHMAN sports come in. They give a boy a chance to adjust to persons of equal ability before competing against the more finely developed athletes he'll be ready for later on.

Agreed, UCLA's got a real problem with Lew Alcindor. He was ready for varsity competition this year . . . and his coach couldn't use him. That's too bad.

But even at that, the question, "How much does Alcindor learn playing against centers 6-6 and lower, kids he's been scoring on since he was in high school?" is not extremely valid.

Mr. Alcindor seems to have learned enough against "those kids" to have developed into the pretty fair basketball player he is now. And if Thomas believes that by throwing him into collegiate competition his freshman year, he's going to keep him from scoring, well—Belko, Dalmar, Valenti, and Harshman, stop your worrying.

Net Tourney Set Co-eds Win Softball Game

About 21 schools from Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Montana are tentatively scheduled to participate in the annual northwest women's tennis championships to be held here May 20-21.

The University of Oregon women's tennis team was in action Tuesday afternoon and defeated Oregon State 3-1 for their third win in as many starts this season, and their second over Oregon State.

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Ten of Them

Gridders Get Green Shirts

Ten Oregon gridders have received the "green shirt," emblematic of first string status thus far into the three week old spring football practice session.

Head football coach Len Casa-

Bob Berry, Minnesota Vikings reserve quarterback who set passing and offensive records at the University of Oregon, will direct the Oregon alumni team against the varsity again this year. Berry led the alums to a 6-3 victory last year. The annual spring game will be played May 14.

nova has bestowed the much wanted practice shirt, given on the basis of ability, hustle and desire, on five juniors, four sophomores and a freshman.

Dan Archer, a 230 pound junior tackle from Modesto, California, is the most recent "green-shirter," having received his Tuesday afternoon. Archer has had two years of varsity experience.

Emerald SPORTS

Frosh Netters Lose Fifth

Oregon's freshman tennis team dropped its final match of the season to Roseburg High School, 6-3, at Eugene Wednesday. Inability to win doubles proved the frosh's downfall as they lost two of those matches after splitting singles competition 3-3.

The loss was the fifth in as many matches for the frosh and their third to Roseburg. In previous matches the Ducklings had lost to Oregon State twice, 5-4 and 8-1, and to Roseburg, 5-2 and 5-2.

Winning for Oregon were Gerry Shaw, first singles, 6-3, 6-3; Tom Hackett, fourth singles, 6-2, 6-8, 6-1; and Ron Eachus, fifth singles, 6-4, 6-4.

In doubles Roger Lidell and John Dick were defeated 2-6, 5-6, and Pete Shaw and Dan McPeak lost 2-6, 3-6. A third doubles match was cancelled after Gerry Shaw and Barry Starret had split sets with Roseburg 4-6, 10-8.

Leading the frosh team has been Gerry Shaw from Santa Conica, California. He has a record of 6 and 3 and has recorded a win in every frosh match.

Woodell Listed As 'Fair'

Bob Woodell, the Oregon long jumper-triple jumper who injured his back in a Millrace accident Sunday afternoon, was listed in "fair" condition Wednesday morning at Sacred Heart Hospital.

According to hospital authorities, the Theta Chi senior is paralyzed from the waist down at the present time, though it will be several months before anything definite is expected to be known about his condition.

His best long jump this year was a 23-11 winning effort against UCLA.

Those gaining first string status last Saturday were juniors Pat Helfrich and Harry Cartales, sophomores Warner Wong, Bob Lawrence and Cam Molter, and freshman Jim Evenson.

Evenson, a junior college transfer from Boise, Idaho, has nailed down the starting fullback slot, while Molter, Lawrence, Cartales and Helfrich made the starting unit on defense.

Molter is a 190 pound defensive end from Eugene, Lawrence a 225 pound defensive lineman from Portland, Cartales a 220 pound linebacker from Portland, and Helfrich a 197 pound defensive

end from Eugene. Wong, a 215 pounder from Honolulu, made the squad as a guard.

Jim Smith, Ross Carter and Roger Stahlhut were among the first to receive their shirts. Smith is a sophomore offensive halfback from San Diego, California, while Carter is a guard from Eugene and Stahlhut a junior tackle from Anaheim, California.

Assistant football coach John Robinson, commenting on the approach of the coaching staff to this spring's practice, said, "We're just trying to be better. We're not changing a whole lot from previous years," he said. "After all, we've had winning seasons five out of the last six years."

He said the coaches have stressed the running attack more during the first weeks of practice and look for "good balance" in the offense. He said the team is going back "to the good old Oregon offense."

Commenting on spring practice as a whole, Robinson said, "The kids are trying harder than they ever have before, and spirit is very good."

IM Schedule

Softball

4:00—South Field, Busads vs. Phi Gamma Delta
North Field, Douglas vs. Chemistry

Tennis

4:00—Kappa Sigma vs. Robbins

Golf

Counselors vs. Burgess

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