

Delplanche Happy to Plant Spikes Here

By RICK FITCH
Emerald Sports Writer

Ron Delplanche had a difficult decision to make after graduating from high school.

An all-state selection in both football and baseball, he could have gone to a small college where he could play both sports. Or he could have gone to a big school, such as Oregon, where, because of increased pressure and competition, he would have to cut down on one.

Happily for coach Don Kirsch and the varsity baseball team, Delplanche stuck with Oregon and baseball.

The rest is history. In his first season as a varsity performer, Delplanche, a junior, made the all-Northern Division team as a righthand throwing, lefthand batting third baseman. He hit for a .316 average with six homers and 26 runs batted in, and had a stretch of 13 games without an error while captaining his team

to a 12-6, second-place finish.

This season he appears destined to improve on last year's all-star performance. With three league contests left, Delplanche is batting .344 with seven homers and 25 runs batted in. He leads the team in homers and triples, is second in runs-batted-in and doubles, and is third in batting average and stolen bases.

He began his baseball career as a Pee Wee leaguer in the sixth grade. "It was a family thing," remarked Delplanche. "I just fell in line." Following the path of his major league "idol," Ted Williams, he compiled an outstanding athletic record at Hillsboro High.

Three-Sport Letterman

Lettering in football, basketball, and baseball, Delplanche was all-state in his "favorite" sports, football and baseball, and "only" league honorable mention in basketball.

He chose Oregon over the small colleges "because of a good scholarship, better athletic program, good coach, and more competition." He had previously decided to make baseball his only sport.

"I didn't think I was big enough for football," said Delplanche, a 5-9 175 pounder. "A guy my size wouldn't have much of a chance against those big guys."

His choice appeared well

founded after he batted .534 his freshman year.

Delplanche said of this year's team: "We aren't playing up to our potential. Washington State is the best team in the league, but we should have taken two of the three games up there," he remarked.

"We've made too many mental mistakes and errors."

Can't Be Satisfied

Despite his fine performance thus far in the season, the season isn't complete for Delplanche. "You can't be satisfied when the team isn't winning," he said. "I'd like to win the championship."

He feels that his hitting was "pretty good" against baseball powerhouses Arizona and Arizona State, but thinks that he "should have done better" against small schools. "Small school junk pitch-

ers give me a lot of trouble," he said.

Washington State pitching ace Joe Prisella also gives him trouble. "He's a smart pitcher," said Delplanche. "When I'm looking for one pitch, he'll throw the other."

He looks for better performances from both himself and the team next year. "I'm just going to play the best I can," he said. "Providing some key guys don't sign, we should have a good season next year. We're losing only four seniors."

Concerning the possibility of playing pro ball, Delplanche said, "I won't consider signing next year unless I get a big bonus, and I don't think I'll get one. I probably won't sign until after I graduate, and even then I'll want a good bonus."

In PAC Track Meet

Underdog UO Out for Upset

By PAUL POLSKY
Associate Sports Editor

They'll be off and running Friday afternoon in Palo Alto when the PAC championships begin at 2:30 on the Stanford oval.

The Oregon Ducks are the defending champions but unless Bill Bowerman and his hearty group come up with some season's end miracle, the UCLA Bruins, and possibly the USC Trojans will replace them in the winners circle.

The Bruins have eight best marks, followed closely by the Trojans who have five. From there it goes down to a pair for the Ducks and the Washington State Cougars, with the OSU Beavers and the California Bears one apiece.

The Bruins appear to have the best sprinters (Norm Jackson and Tom Jones), the top miler and two miler in Bob Day, the class of the high hurdles (Ron Copeland), and the mile relay. In addition, they also have bests in the javelin (Dick Selby) and in the pole vault (Marc Savage).

The USC hopefuls are Dwight Middleton in the 440, Dennis Carr in the 880, Mahoney Samuels in the triple jump, and discus thrower Gary Carlsen. Greg Heet of SC and Bob Keppel of WSU are tied in the high jump.

Steinhauer, Moore Pace Ducks

Neal Steinhauer in the shot and Ken Moore in the steeplechase are expected to pace the Ducks. Oregon State has Tony Albin in the broad jump, while California relies on Paddy McCrary in the

440 hurdles. The WSU mark is by Gerry Lindgren, American three-mile record-holder.

But . . .

Wade Bell has been dying for a shot at SC's Carr, and Bob Blum has the capabilities to upset UCLA's Ron Copeland whom he chased to the best mark in the PAC this spring.

Bob Day is ailing after a mysterious injury sidelined him while he was running last week in the Coliseum Relays. His exact condition has not been made public, so his status for the meet is questionable.

Day Questionable

Bruin coach Jim Bush, has entered Day in the mile—but "just entered," he said. "That is all."

Day's injury may not hurt the Bruin chances too much, but it will certainly make the underdog's try a little harder, giving SC and Oregon that little extra incentive for an upset.

Lindgren seems a sure shoo-in for the three mile but Duck Ken Moore would like to make a good race of it. He was beaten by Lindgren last week in Seattle when the little Cougar missed the world mark by .6 of a second.

The Ducks are the class of the steeplechase and Moore will be back to defend his title in this event, as well as running the three mile. Bruce Mortenson, NCAA steeplechase champion, and Phil Hansen will give the Ducks added strength in that event.

Other bright spots in the Duck 22-man traveling squad include half milers Mike Crunican and Don Scott.

Mike Deibele, who upset Bruin Norm Jackson in the 100 when the two met earlier this year, will again duel with Jackson in the century as well as three favored Uclans in the 220.

With Bell slated for "880 action only" the lone Duck entrant in the mile will be Dave Wilborn.

Blum, Marcial Hunter, and Paul Elliott will handle the high hurdle event. Bowerman ruled 440 hurdler Paul Cope out of the meet due to a thigh problem.

Little or Nothing in Relays

In the relay events, Bowerman conceded earlier in the week that the Ducks were hurting and may not field a 440 team and definitely are out of the mile exchange.

Neal Steinhauer, who leads the Ducks in the field events, is virtually assured of one first place and a hot contender for another.

His 66-10 shot effort is 6 feet 3½ inches ahead of his nearest rival, and he is ranked third in the discus, though he is two for two in wins against No. 2 ranked Al Pemberton of Washington this year.

Other Duck hopefuls include Bill Heikkila in the javelin along with Jim Sagle, Bob Varley in the pole vault, Bob Fauskett in the shot put, and Herm Brame in the long and triple jumps.

All of Friday's competition is preliminary except the steeplechase, which is slated for 5:15 p.m.

Running event prelims will commence at 2:30 and the field events at 3 p.m.

Saturday's competition is scheduled to begin at 1:30 p.m. for the other 17 events on the program.

The scoring, should it follow last year's pattern, will be 5-3-2-1.

UO's Glenn Wins In Mat Action

Three wrestlers—one from Oregon, one an Oregon-grad, and the other scheduled to enroll at the University next year—won championships in the Seattle wrestling tournament last weekend.

The current Oregonian, senior Bruce Glenn, defeated Darrel Day (1-0) and Dennis Sipe (by a fall) to win the 191-pound title.

Day and Sipe both placed high in this year's national freestyle tournament, Day placing second and Sipe fourth. Glenn is a former National AAU Greco-Roman champion.

Kenicho Kanno, the North Eugene High senior who announced three months ago his intention to enter Oregon the fall of 1966, won the 114.5-pound division over another wrestler who will be entering Oregon next year, John Miller of Wilson High (Portland).

Kanno, before entering North Eugene, was a member of the Japanese High School all-star wrestling team that toured Oregon last winter. Since then, he has won the Oregon AAU freestyle and placed second in the national AAU freestyle wrestling tournaments.

Ex-Oregon star Doug Muck won the 148-pound title over former Oregon High School champions Clarence Seal (three-time from Redmond) and Freeman Garrison (two-time from Portland).

Oregon's 123-pound PAC champ, Doug Robertson, wrestled at 138 but lost on a last second takedown.

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