

Quack Cracks



What Do AAU?

By DAVE BARONTI
Emerald Sports Editor

THIS WEEKEND—IN OAKLAND—California sports fans will see all of the best of the Oregon track team except the coach.

Bill Bowerman will be off to Chicago to attend a meeting he's not entirely sure he's going to enjoy. Reason? In a nutshell, because it's with the Amateur Athletic Union.

Bowerman is one of six NCAA representatives who have been asked to attend a joint conference of the amateur sports world's two major divisions—but that is all he may end up doing. Attending.

Because if the meeting is anything like similar meetings in the past, it will be dominated almost exclusively—and ruthlessly—by the AAU.

The conference is important. No question about that. It is designed to start preparing America's athletes for the 1968 Olympic Games.

However, Bowerman could be excused for feeling as he does that he and the other NCAA representatives probably will be wasting their time in attending at all. This year, the Olympic Committee has named 54 AAU delegates to the meeting as opposed to six from the NCAA.

That, for those of you who can't divide, is a ratio of 9:1. It means that NCAA subservience to the AAU is not over; that all of the collegiate sports world's recommendations will likely be ignored.

It also means that Bowerman might wind up with his team in Oakland Sunday afternoon. "If the meeting is going like it probably will, I might take the 3:30 plane out of Chicago and be there for the meet," he explained.

Such an end to such a meeting would be near tragic—but there is hardly any way to avoid it. The NCAA and the AAU have been feuding for two decades. There was hope for a truce two years ago when the Senate held hearings into the matter, but virtually nothing was done. The AAU is just as dominant now as it was before.

The outside observer might ask, "What's wrong with that?" And the question is easily answered. Collegians overwhelmingly dominate the typical United State Olympic squad. And the athletes that are solely members of the AAU are just as overwhelmingly ex-collegians—persons who became proficient in the sport not because of the training they received after college, but because of what they received in the schools.

So where does this put the AAU? "In a parasitic role," in the words of one prominent coach. And it's an accurate description. They get rich off talent produced elsewhere—and in the meanwhile set about to destroy the source.

It is the college coaches who are contributing most to America's Olympic squads—not the capitalistic AAU managers arranging meets from plush New York offices. It is their athletes who are competing. And it is they who should have at least more than a nominal influence on what conditions those athletes train under.

And unless something unexpected happens in this weekend's Chicago meeting, it is a safe bet the AAU still won't give them this right.

Bowerman and his colleagues will undoubtedly be denied several of their objectives which they think vital to the Olympic program—such as a six month training period, especially for those athletes who might adversely be affected by Mexico City's high altitude.

In the meantime, the NCAA can only toy with several possible remedies to the problem. Not the least of these is a possible boycott of all AAU meets.

The NCAA has the talent. It holds the trump cards. It is just too bad such a thing has to be suggested.

BUT ABOUT THAT TRACK MEET in Oakland: Watch closely. You may see not one but two Oregon "spectaculars."

Neal Steinhauer, of course, will be competing in the shot put. And since he set the world's indoor record last week in San Francisco, even Californians have come to expect prodigies out of him.

But there is also an 880 relay team entered: Roscoe Divine, Jerry Van Dyk, Arne Kvalheim, and Wade Bell.

"There's a veteran squad from Long Beach that should be favored," Bowerman reported. "But we'll be good."

He illustrated. "This squad is so balanced and good that Bell may be our worst runner—and he's a hell of a half-miler and a four minute miler. Or it may be Kvalheim—and he's the Norwegian champ. Or it may be Divine—and he's the freshman record holder. Or it may be Van Dyk—and he beat the Olympic silver medalist, Caruthers, in Canada last month.

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Meet Multnomah, Southern Oregon

Matmen Set 2-Way Trips

"We've been working hard this week," says wrestling coach Art Keith. "We should definitely be the sharpest this weekend that we've been all season."

Keith takes his wrestlers on an unusual road trip Friday and Saturday. The first night the team is in Portland against the Multnomah Athletic Club. Saturday, it's Southern Oregon

College in Ashland. In between, it's a night's rest in Eugene.

Multnomah Club is of unknown quality, according to Keith. For instance, he knows definitely that Gary Stenslund—a former Nation AAU champion—will be competing against the Ducks. But the MACers also have another national champ—Ed Dewitt in 177—who may or may not go.

At 123, the Ducks will actually be giving a MAC wrestler a ride to Portland to compete against them. He's Grant Henjyoi, a senior at Oregon who was a letter winner last year for the Ducks, but who has since been declared ineligible. He still works out with the team, however.

"Multnomah Club usually picks up the prize ex-college and even high school athletes who aren't eligible to compete anymore," says Keith.

"And they're almost always really good. A number of times they've had several national champs on their squad. Their coach is Cy Mitchell—and he's on the International Olympic

Committee. Back in 1952 when I was trying out for the games, he used to coach me. I know he's good."

Southern Oregon, according to Keith, is a different type of team. "They've got a good 160 pounder in Mike Tilton who beat Craig Caster, our 160 pounder in the Oregon Invitational tournament last week—end," Keith said. "But we should beat them."

He's counting on the home team putting several Eugene-grown boys in the lineup, including Dave Hurd and Mike Armitage at 123 and 137 respectively.

Other probables for SOC include Lee Peterson at 130, George Dumais at 147, Steve Simpson at 152, Tilton, John Pierce at 167, John Hays at 177, and Bob Ewing at heavyweight.

Oregon will counter with Terry Hileman at 123, Pete Helzer at 130, Curt Scott at 137, Randy Franke at 145, Steve Criner at 152, Craig Caster at 160, Dick Bellock at 167, Kent Studebaker at 177, and Nick Shur at heavyweight.

PP Picks UO To Top Huskies

By Prestigious Prognosticator

Hello again, sports fans. Welcome to another episode in the life of the world's most prestigious (heh, heh) prognosticator. This is my first attempt at basketball—but with beginners luck I should get 100 per cent. With average luck, 90.

UCLA's dominating everything in sight—but don't be surprised to see me correctly predict a Bruin upset somewhere along the line. UCLA's Alcindor is prone to foul trouble—and remember when I correctly picked Washington to beat the Uclans in football last year? I can do it again.

Anyway, my five brains all agree on five games this week.

USC and UCLA will each win two—over Cal and Stanford. We predict a score of 82-75 the first game, and 88-70 the second for USC. WASHINGTON STATE will dump OSU, 67-55.

One of my brains dissents on the WASHINGTON-Oregon State game, but the rest say the Huskies—by 61-60.

As for OREGON, we've got a surprise. They'll beat Washington 68-64, but lose to the Cougars 76-66. Three of my brains agree on the first game, all of them on the second.

Emerald SPORTS

Swimmers Set 'Double-Dual'

Tonight Oregon will host a swim club which last year beat every team on the West Coast except Southern California.

The team is the Arden Hills (Calif.) AAU club, and the meet is at 7 p.m. in Leighton Pool.

Oregon State swimmers also will be on hand for the double dual meet. Both Oregon and OSU will compete individually against Arden Hills but not against each other.

The California club has edged the Ducks by slim margins the past two years, and, according to coach Don Van Rossen, "It will offer us equally close competition this year."

Van Rossen said many of Arden Hills' swimmers have gone on to be named All-American high school and collegiate competitors.

On this year's squad is John Ferris, who finished second in the 200 meter butterfly in the 1966 National Outdoor Championships.

Additional talent includes distance man Mark Shelley and backstroker Ray Rivero.

Extends Coverage

KWAX, the campus radio station, is extending its programming hours to Saturday with an emphasis on sports.

The Saturday programming begins tomorrow at 12 noon and will feature play-by-play of the Oregon frosh basketball game, an evening sports commentary, and regular broadcasts of scores from around the nation.

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