



Photo by A. O. Gurdjian

Bob Neal chugs into third



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After graduation

Krause mulls building year

Mel Krause has arm trouble.

After leading the 1972 baseball Ducks to the Pacific-8 northern division championship game, Head Coach Krause now faces the unenviable task of rebuilding a title contender in 1973 with an inexperienced pitching staff.

From the '72 squad he has lost three of four starting pitchers. Two via graduation and one to the San Francisco Giants.

Steven Greenough signed with the Giants and will be sorely missed. Krause had been depending on him and Mike Shoup to bolster the '73 staff.

Now only Shoup remains. Although Shoup will be an easy standout and workhorse he'll be backed up by no one with any sizable experience. In two years of Pac-8 ball, Shoup has yet to lose a conference game. Last season he won six without suffering a defeat during the entire season. He led the squad with six complete games.

Greenough topped the Duck mound with a 1.62 earned-run-average and threw two shutouts. He struck out 59 batters in 50 innings of work.

"The loss of Greenough is really hurting us now. Little-experienced sophomores will be fighting for starting jobs this year," Krause said.

Off the mound, though, Krause is pleased, "We have a good nucleus of a ball club," and he starts reciting the names of his big guns coming back—despite the monstrous loss of Dave Roberts, who now is carrying his weight with the San Diego Padres. "You always lose someone and it always hurts," Krause said, trying to brush off the loss, something not easily done with Roberts.

The 6-2 junior led the squad in nearly every hitting category, set many season records and even established some career baseball records at Oregon despite passing up his senior year in favor of a professional contract. He ripped opposing pitching at a .410 clip, swatted 12 homeruns, drove in 47 runs, and totaled 107 bases on 59 hits in 37 games.

His loss was expected, though, long before he was picked first in the annual professional baseball draft in June.

But despite the slugger's absence Oregon will field a powerful offensive attack. Krause's son Guy offers the long ball. He clubbed seven homers last season after leading the Pac-8 in home runs his freshman year a season earlier.

Catcher Artie Salvesson returns with a .323 batting average in his first year. Another freshman starter, second baseman Bob Anderson hit a respectable .250 with more at-bats than anyone except Roberts. His quick hands at second base figured in 13 double plays.

Power hitter Bob Neal will also return. He alternated between first base and catcher. He batted .287 in 35 games. Dean Roberts played the final two-thirds of the season in center field and finished with a .293 batting average in 22 games.

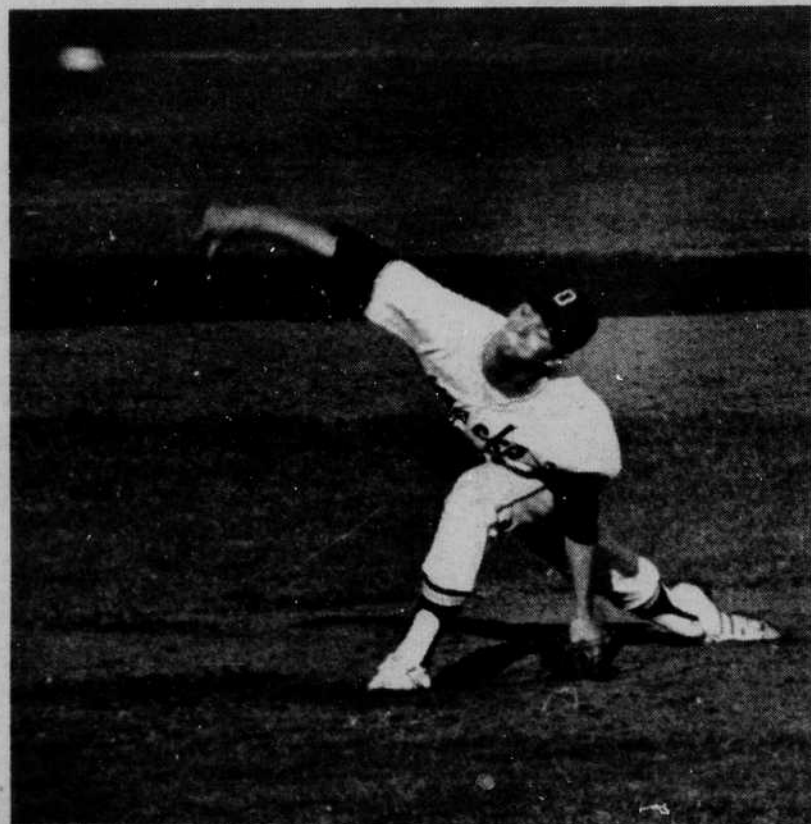


Photo by Phil Waldstein

Steve Townsend

The outfield will be strong. Roberts and Krause will be joined by Mike Long (.261); Don Reynolds (.226); or one of a multitude of junior varsity grads headed by Steve Donnelly, Ken Warren and Fred Kay.

The infield is very unsettled at the present. The big shoes to fill are Dave Roberts' who held third base down before switching to shortstop midway through the season. Greg Brosterhouse took Roberts' place at third, graduated and leaves a giant gap on the left side of the field, but Coach Krause has been experimenting with Anderson at third and recruited with this weakness in mind.

Anderson has a lock on second base if he doesn't move to third.

At first is Neal, Guy Krause, or fast-improving Pat McNally, who doubles as a football split end.

On the shaky mound Shoup will be flanked by Steve Townsend, who saw 16 2-3 innings of relief action in 11 games. The left-hander compiled a 2-2 record and two saves. The rest of the staff will be mostly sophomores. Randy Lanning, Steve Miller and Greg Richards all saw limited duty as freshmen and will be in the thick of the fight for starting jobs come spring. Lanning did face 31 innings of work in nine games, but his e.r.a. was 4.06.

The key to Oregon's baseball hopes will obviously rest with the pitchers. Big bats are coming back and they will score lots of runs—very comforting to any pitching staff. But they'll still have to score more than what the hurlers surrender to get another shot at Washington State and the northern division championship.