

Duck Tracks

By CHRIS CHURCH
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Only two more football games remain on Oregon's 1962 slate and with the prospects for victory good in both of these contests we can turn part of our attention to the post-season bowl games.

Can't Play Here

Of the four major bowls that are held on New Year's Day, it is impossible for the Ducks to go to two of them. In the Rose Bowl it looks like Southern Cal will be the home team and either Northwestern or Wisconsin.

We are also out of the Sugar Bowl in New Orleans because of the segregation problem in the South. In that Bowl, a battle of titans is shaping up between Alabama (8-0) and Mississippi (8-0). Right now it hasn't been decided whether or not these two teams want to meet each other. If they decide not to, Arkansas (7-1) will probably be selected to play one of the two teams with the other going to another bowl game.

Orange Bowl

In the Orange Bowl, it looks like the host school could be any one of three teams. Missouri (7-0-1), Nebraska (7-0) and possibly Oklahoma (5-2 but undefeated in conference action) could be selected.

There are at least six schools in contention for the visiting spot. Either Alabama, or Mississippi, could play here if they don't meet in the Sugar Bowl. Of the others, the top three are Arkansas, Louisiana State (6-1-1) and Penn State (7-1-1) look to be the most likely. An outside possibility is Miami of Florida (6-2) but they have to finish their season against Northwestern and tough Florida.

Our Big Chance

Getting down to business, the Cotton Bowl looks like the best possibility for the Ducks. Not only is it our best opportunity but it would also allow us to meet, for the second time, the Longhorns of the University of Texas.

We have to realize, however, that there are many many fine football teams in the nation this season and most of them are chomping at the bit to play in some bowl game.

For the Cotton Bowl in particular, some of the teams being considered have very fine season records against good opposition. Again in this bowl game, we have either Mississippi or Alabama, to contest the Texans.

Things don't look particularly bright here in the Webfoot camp. First, we need an impressive win over Ohio State. Second, we'll have to beat the Beavers. And on top of this we're going to have to pick up a little more national recognition so they will respect us in the Southwest and so the committee will feel that the game will draw better than if they matched another team with Texas.

UPDATE - Football was indeed at another level in 1962 as Oregon was playing the bowl guessing game eight weeks into the season, having a 6-1-1 record.

Despite the urging of Emerald Sports Editor Larry Graves, the Ducks soon saw their bowl hopes collapse as they were crushed by Ohio State. A later loss to Oregon State put a further damper on what had started as a good season.

Diamond Men No. Two

Oregon's Ducks received the good news today — they're now ranked as the number two baseball team in the nation. The Ducks, with a 20-2 record for the season, trails top-ranked Missouri by only two points. The Tigers, with a 16-4 record, received 14 first place votes and a total of 292 points, while the Ducks received 13 first place votes and 290 points.

Portland State is the only team to beat the Ducks thus far, and they've done it twice this season. Wednesday, the Ducks took the toll of the Vikings for the first time in three games, 7-2.

Beavers not mentioned

Oregon State, which is currently tied with Oregon for first place in the Northern Division, was not mentioned in the top 20. USC and Arizona were ranked eighth and ninth respectively.

Team	Points
1. Missouri (16-4)	292
2. Oregon (20-2)	290
3. Western Michigan (13-1)	270
4. St. John's (17-3)	258
5. Wake Forest (21-6)	253
6. Mississippi (18-5)	243
7. West Virginia (10-1)	237
8. USC (23-12)	220
9. Arizona (27-13)	209
10. Texas (15-4-1)	199

UPDATE - Although Oregon slumped at the close of the season to miss out on post season play, it enjoyed an excellent baseball season in 1963, advancing as high as second in the nation.

Led by top hitter H.D. Murphy, the Ducks took a dive as the season drew to a close and finished second in the Northern Division. Oregon's winning ways in baseball continued until last season when Oregon had its first losing season since 1932.

Pressure No Problem For Athlete Mel Renfro

By RAY MAST

Emerald Sports News Editor

All athletes respond under pressure in one way or another. Some respond negatively and fail in their efforts.

Others remain consistent and turn in their usual performances. But the great ones react with outstanding performances.

It's an almost unanimous opinion that Mel Renfro falls into this latter category, be it football or track. Any doubters need only look at last year's

NCAA track finals.

Mel placed second in both the high hurdles and the broad jump and in both events his marks were his best of the season.

It seems hardly possible that Mel gets worked up before a game or track meet, though. To look at his calm composure it appears that he has a "so-what" attitude. But, according to Mel, this isn't so.

"I get butterflies two days before a football game," he said. "And at least a day before a

track meet. But the pressure doesn't hurt me; I try not to think about it."

Some people may wonder about Renfro's late start last year in track and his inability again this year to dazzle the track world with the marks of which he is capable.

"Last year I guess I just wasn't ready to start working hard at the first of the season," said Mel. "Actually it's just a matter of my getting in shape this year," he said "because some meets were at the first of the season."

To many track and field men, the knowledge that they will be competing against the greatest in their event is a spur to them and urges them to strive for first place a little harder. In Mel's case this wasn't true last year — at least at the first of the track season.

When asked if running against Jerry Tarr was an incentive or a hindrance Renfro said, "No, not for me. At the first of the season it was more of a hindrance. I felt I was going to get second no matter what I did. Later I didn't think of second as much."

With all of Renfro's great days in track one would think that it would be difficult for him to pick out one day that gave him the most satisfaction. And it is. But one would think that his greatest thrill would be his second place finishes in the NCAA finals. Or maybe the day in Los Angeles when he set the high school track and field world on its ear by copping three firsts against the nation's best high school tracksters.

With much deliberation Mel nixes both of these. He said, "it's hard to choose one because I've had so many. I think my greatest thrill came in the state track meet my senior year in high school when I took four firsts and scored 32 points. My school (Jefferson of Portland) took first that day. I set records in both the low hurdles and broad jump."

UPDATE - Mel Renfro went on to play professional football with the Dallas Cowboys, where he still plays. Renfro was named All-Pro several times as a corner back, and played in three Super Bowls.



Mel Renfro

(Oregana Photo)

Vandals Swipe 2 Victories; Johnson 'Hustles' Webfoots

The Idaho Vandals and their 6-6 center Gus Johnson took two victories from the Oregon Ducks in McArthur Court this weekend.

Johnson scored 36 points in the two encounters along with blocking shots, setting up plays, and carrying out every other conceivable basketball maneuver.

The vaunted Vandals came from behind in the last 30 seconds on four free throw by Chuck Kozak to slip by Oregon's Webfoots 62-61 in overtime Friday night in McArthur Court before 3,388 fans.

The Vandals, riding high at the top of the Northwest Independents, started fast, jumping to a quick six-point lead before the Ducks could tally any counters.

The best opportunity for a Webfoot upset was born in the last four seconds of regulation play. With the score knotted at 52-52, Glenn Moore was fouled by Chuck White in the act of shooting and was awarded two free throws.

The crowd was silent as the Webfoot captain stepped to the free throw line. Moore took quick aim and fired but both shots glanced off the front rim and the game went into overtime.

The Ducks' hopes came alive again just after the overtime period started. Johnson fouled out and the Webfoots built up a five point lead.

The Vandals were not to be denied a victory, though, as they fought back to a 60-59 lead. Chuck Kozak, Johnson's replacement, stepped in to put the game on ice with his third and fourth free throws of the overtime period.

Oregon closed the gap to one point with one second left to play. Then the Vandals gave the Ducks a free basket as they stood by and watched to avoid the three-point play.

UPDATE - Oregon losing two games to Idaho? Times have certainly changed for Duck basketball.

Although playing in a league comprised of Seattle, Idaho, Oregon State, Portland and themselves, the Ducks suffered through a miserable season in 1962, finishing up 11-15.

The only player who amounted to anything was guard Steve Jones, who later played in the ABA and spent a year with Portland. Gus Johnson, who starred for Idaho, went on to be an All-Pro performer for Baltimore.