

Skyline Conference Race To Be Three-Way Affair

Salt Lake City—Rocky Mountain area football teams pick up the season just about where it left off last year with Air Force academy, Wyoming, New Mexico and Brigham Young university the likely leaders.

However, they're drawing fine lines between the top rated teams and it will be more difficult than usual to hand the championship to any given team.

Two new coaches, more experienced player personnel, and improved team balance from top to bottom form the basis for improved football in the Rockies, with last year's leaders all expected to benefit from the changes.

Most preseason polls in the Rockies name defending champion Wyoming, speedy New Mexico and well-balanced Brigham Young to battle it out for the Skyline conference crown. Air Force academy, despite heavy losses on the line, is rated the top independent. Idaho State colleges, Colorado college and Colorado Mines are expected to battle it out for the Rocky Mountain conference championship.

Falcon Hit By Graduation

The Air Force Falcons, the surprise team in the nation last year, sustained their first graduation losses since the Academy opened in 1955. Eleven players departed from the team that went unbeaten last year while playing two tie games.

The Flyboys will have plenty of firepower this season with the return in the backfield of quarterbacks John Kunezel and Rich Mayo, fullback Mike Rawlins, and halfbacks Mike Quinlan and Phil Lane.

However, coach Ben Martin will have problems with the defenses. Guard Howard Bronson and end Bob Brickley, holdover from last year's

line, return. But after that Martin will have to count on sophomores.

Wyoming, which won the Skyline title last season with a predominantly sophomore squad, figures to be improved this year. But coach Bob Deveney also points out that the entire league will be improved.

New Mexico, runnerup last season in the Skyline under first-year coach Marv Levy, boasts an experienced team headed by Don Perkins, one of the nation's top ground gainers last year, and end Don Black, an all-Skyline selection last season.

Speed And Depth

The Lobos will also have great speed and depth. Tackles pose a problem for Levy, last year's Skyline Coach of the Year.

Brigham Young, under new coach Tally Stevens, will switch to the multiple offense this year. The Brigham's, who have yet to win their first Skyline grid title, will probably be strongest in the middle of the line and at the tailback spots.

In the Rocky Mountain Conference, Idaho State is expected to bounce back after finishing third last year. Quarterback Gary Tomlinson heads a squad of 19 returning lettermen.

Colorado Mines and Colorado College, co-champs last year, expect to be in the running again this season. Little All-America quarterback Vince Tesone is the top returnee at Colorado Mines.

Colorado State University, boasting a senior-dominated club; Utah State, under new coach John Ralston; and sophomore-studded Utah are classed as spoilers in the Skyline with none rated title contenders at this state of the season. Denver and Montana, both hard hit by graduation, have similar roles.

Woods, Water, Wildlife

By Hank DeVoss

This is the time of the year that can cause enough conflicts in the mind of a sportsman to bring about a mild neurosis. Fishing is improving constantly in all the lakes; the streams are giving up some of the best fish of the season; dove hunters are finding a few doves scattered through the valley; the local Robinhoods managed to miss a lot and hit a few deer in the Keno hunt, and the steelhead are swarming in the lower river. These constitute the choices available to the sportsman right now and unless he is a man who knows his preference he may find it hard to decide which should be his choice. Many of us won't find the choice too difficult until the general buck season opens on the third of next month. Let's go downriver!

ONE OF THE BIGGEST

Reports from the mouth of the river tell us the steelhead run entering the river is the largest in 15 years. Since last year's run was supposed to be the biggest in the last 30 years, it would seem we have a type of record either in steelhead numbers or in loss of memory. Be that as it may, there are a lot of fightingest fish down there, including fall run steelhead, half-pounders up from the ocean for a short visit, fall chinook salmon, silver salmon and a few cutthroat.

HALF-POUNDERS

These are the scrappy little fish that measure 12 to 15 inches of dynamite on the end of a fly rod. They enter the river as old two-year-olds or young three-year-olds and stay awhile before they return to the ocean. On the following year they start up again and this time they keep going to their spawning grounds as mature fish. These small fish weigh approximately a half-pound, hence their name. They are eager to take a fly and are most sought after by the fisherman who prefers this method of fishing. Mixed in with them are the regular fall run fish that weigh up to about eight pounds and the action can really get wild when one of these gets on.

THE WHYFORE

The best explanation as to why there is such an increase in the fall run fish is that the screens blocking the irrigation ditches are doing a good job of affecting a large downstream migration of this particular race of fish. The use of these screens is far more effective in maintaining our migratory fish runs than any hatchery system. The return of wild fish is many times the number of returning hatchery fish and at a fraction of the cost. Natural habitat and the cost and effort of maintaining it will give us better fishing than any hatchery system yet devised.

THE DEERLAYERS

Reports coming in from the hunt around Keno this last week indicate there were plenty of deer for the hunting but as usual the hunters found it hard to connect with the real thing. Shots were missed from as close as 20 feet and a couple of deer were downed with fluke shots that should have missed. Hunting with a bow and arrow can be extremely exciting and buck fever is common enough when shots are at live targets less than 40 yards away. This is a sport that is very appealing in that you are dependent upon your eye and muscle coordination to a much greater degree than the rifleman. A near miss can make a better story than a one shot kill.

TEMPERATURE DATA

The temperature data the fish and wildlife service is going after this next year will be gathered by the use of 27 recording thermographs for water temperature and will be compiled with air temperature data extant during the same period. Let's hope this will be a complete study and the data used to promote the best possible deal for the fish of the basin.

THE ANGLER'S LOG

The river has cooled down quite a bit since the hot spell in August. Temperatures at Gold Ray dam go from 58 to 58 degrees. In the lower canyon the water is down to a cooler 63 degrees. We need rain for the river despite this good news and unless we get it there will be a lot of fish caught. This is the dilemma of the conservationist; at what point does not enough become too much regarding numbers of fish caught?

Diamond Lake—Was a slow during the first of the week but it is picking up. The week end storm stirred up the lake but it is settling down now. Flies are working well during early morning and late afternoon fishing. Golden demon and spruce are preferred. Flatfish work well during the day. Ben Fagone and family carried away 60 fish during a two week vacation with daughter Toni taking honors with a 4½-pounder.

Fish Lake—The lake is low with most fishing in the channel but with some luck in near the lava. Trolling flies on a short line is best. Some are having luck by casting toward the lava.

Howard Prairie—Some fine catches are coming out of this lake. It is rich in natural foods and the fish are fat and sassy. FF&W, flatfish and hotshots are all good producers.

Klamath Lake—This will be the last report from this lake. The water is too low to afford good trout fishing although there are plenty of catfish and perch being caught.

Lake of the Woods—There have been very few fishermen but those who did make it caught fish. Trolling is picking up and some 15 to 16 inch fish are being hooked. The skiing epidemic seems to be over and the lake is clear for the fisherman.

THE OPTIMIST'S CORNER

The stories regarding the steelhead run in the lower river have this fisherman upset to the point that I'm going to have a look down there to see if the stories are true. I'm taking a fishing rod along strictly as a defensive weapon to protect myself in case of attack while near the water's edge. I hope it will have a lot of use.

GOOD LUCK!

SPORTS

Prospect Bills Grid Conflicts

Prospect—Prospect High, out of the prep football picture for the past three seasons, will be much in evidence on the gridiron this fall.

The Cougars, under new coach Duane Payne, will play both six-man and 11-man football. They intend to enter state eliminations in the six-man version and to play B school varsities and A school jayvees in the 11-man varsity.

Season opener will be with the Eagle Point jayvee on Monday at Eagle Point.

17 Turn Out

Payne, who came here from Tulelake, Calif., reported that 17 of the 26 boys in the school are out for the gridiron game and that one other is expected to recover from a summer injury. The coach said that games are being sought and open dates are Sept. 18 and 25 and Oct. 9 and 31.

A six-man game is slated for Oct. 2 at Camas Valley. Eleven-man scuffles will be Oct. 16 at Talent and with Illinois Valley Oct. 18 at Prospect and Oct. 26 at Cave Junction. St. Mary's is slated tentatively for Nov. 6.

Payne is a graduate of Brigham Young university and obtained his masters degree at University of Oregon. Vern Haddland, from South Dakota and just out of the Army, is assistant coach.

Upset Scored By Fernandez

Miami Beach—Florentino Fernandez, unbeaten Cuban slugger, and lanky Gaspar Ortega of Mexico were rematched today for a welterweight challengers' fight in Madison Square Garden, Oct. 23, because of Fernandez' upset TV victory over Ortega here Friday night.

Registering his 21st straight professional triumph, Fernandez floored rugged Gaspar twice and won a unanimous 10-round decision: 97-90, 97-91, 96-93.

Florentino did it despite a first-round injury to his left hand, which was to be x-rayed today for a possible fracture.

Matchmaker Teddy Brenner said the return-bout winner in October will get a shot at Don Jordan's 147-pound crown in Miami Beach, Dec. 4.

HIGH LO WINS

Salem—The top horse of the Oregon Futurity at Portland early this year, Mr. High Lo, Friday won the Os West Primer race for two year olds Friday afternoon at the Oregon State Fair.

Yakima Boosts Lead in Series

Yakima—Yakima scored six runs in the first inning Friday night and went on to defeat Salem, 9-2, to take the lead in the Northwest League playoffs, three games to one.

A chemical plant to be put in operation this year is said to be the first to be completely computer-controlled.

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8 P.M.

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Southern Oregon Raiders In Preview This Evening; Gird for Hawaiian Tilt

Ashland—Injuries were at a minimum and defensive results were moving along in good fashion, according to Southern Oregon college head coach Al Akins as he pushed his charges through their paces in preparation for the football opener against the University of Hawaii in Medford next Saturday night.

Interested grid fans will get a preview look at the Red Raider grid machine tonight at 7 o'clock on Fuller field when the men of SOC go through their first full game scrimmage.

Akins also will preview his newly organized group of linemen called the "six stout studs." These six front linemen average 240 pounds. Pedro Colley, at 290 and Neil Green at 242, team with Dick Graves, 263, on one side of the line to form the heavy end of the bulk.

End Jim Dietz came up with a slight concussion and he will be out for at least three days after a collision with Eldon Francis. Jim Clark, newcomer from Medford, has had trouble with his back but he returned to action Friday afternoon.

Defense Pleases

Other than sore joints and blisters, Bill Harper was the only other victim when he split the under side of his finger open.

SOC's coaching staff has expressed pleasure in regard to the defensive unit and his praise has extended to Clark, the freshman from the Pear City. The Medfordite had charge of a group called "Clark's Raiders" in high school and he has extended defensive desires into college.

Lance Locke and Jack Brown have been handling much of the signal calling and varying their attack between running and passing. Locke threw for a couple of big gains Friday and one went all the way to end Jim Perkins in a full speed scrimmage.

Eldon Francis broke away twice in the scrimmages and one was a hip twisting jaunt up the middle for better than 40 yards.

Willie Garner, who played for Phoenix some years back is out of the service, continued to draw praise from Akins with his offensive blocking on many of the running plays.

The Raider camp put emphasis on punting and kick-

offs Friday morning with Larry Drake, frosh from Grants Pass, doing most of the punting. Drake was thumping most boots out about 40 yards.

Phil Sword was back kicking off but he was getting some competition from Phil Swisher, from Merrill, who was just about equalling the ex-Ashland high center.

Evenings have been spent in chalk talks and viewing movies. The team saw the films of the Hawaii-Idaho State game last year which the Rainbows won 40-19. It was very evident the Islanders have a tremendous outside running attack.

Tony Brauner was one of the few converting jobs Akins has undertaken when he moved the ex-quarterback to guard in the offensive unit. Brauner weighed in at 180 pounds and Akins feels he is fitting into the new position fairly well.

Tickets for the SOC-Hawaii game may be purchased by writing Box 493, Medford, or by dropping into Barker's Men's store in Medford; Eberhart's Sporting Goods store in Ashland, or Steve's pharmacy in Grants Pass.

Chicago Bears Defeat Giants

United Press International Papa Bear George Halas keeps hollering "watch out for the Colts and Rams" but how about his Chicago Bears. Runnersup last year in the National Football League's Western Division race, the Bears already are "champions" of the Eastern division this year.

Friday night they made it four exhibition victories in a row over Eastern Division clubs when they beat the New York Giants, 18-6. The Pittsburgh Steelers scored early and late to whip the Chicago Cardinals, 21-13, in another game.

A'S SIGN YOUTHS

Kansas City—Richard Green of Yankton, S.D., and Frank Fencil of Berwyn, Ill., two outstanding high school athletes, have signed contracts with the Kansas City Athletics. Green, a shortstop, will report to Sioux City, Iowa, next season, while Fencil, an outfielder, will go to Olean, N.Y.

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Here is the opening line-up:

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Georgia Tech at Kentucky	_____
Texas at Nebraska	_____
Oregon at Stanford	_____
U.S.C. vs Oregon State	_____
Rice at L.S.U.	_____
Purdue at U.C.L.A.	_____
Washington at Colorado	_____
Medford at Marshfield	_____

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