

# OREGON EMERALD

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## SUNLIGHT ON THE O. A. C. SPIRIT.

Good sportsmanship and gentlemanly grace among the Oregon Agricultural College students and journalistic ethics on the part of the Barometer staff appear to have reached such a stage of decline that the defeat of one of their teams must be "alabied" away, even though the truth may be slaughtered and false charges of "crooked work" on the part of their opponents indulged in.

In the issue of the Barometer dated March 12, which came to the Emerald desk yesterday, appear two of the crudest pieces of newspaper work, both from the standpoint of the sportsmanship displayed and the regard for truth and accuracy, that it has been our ill-fortune to see on the pages of a college newspaper. One might expect work of the caliber of these two articles from a starvation maddened backwoods editor, whose single qualifying accomplishment was his ability to supply the motive power for an eighteenth century hand press. But to justify their appearance in a paper purporting to be the official publication of the student body of one of leading agricultural colleges of the country, and the editor of which poses as an authority on journalistic ethics, would be a difficult task even for persons so adept at distorting facts as the writers of the articles in question.

Under the heading "U. of O. Mat Men Given Contest," the Barometer presents a story of the wrestling meet between the teams of Oregon and O. A. C. here last Saturday evening, that would be laughable if it appeared in any other than the organ of an institution of higher learning. Printed in the Barometer, it causes one to wonder if, after all, the students at the Aggie school have not been credited with an advancement of thought and spirit that was accomplished only on paper. There is but one thing to commend the story—the fact that the writer has displayed almost unlimited range in devising excuses that might answer for an alibi. The quality of his devising, however, would do little credit to a grade school pupil.

Attempting to dignify the O. A. C. team with the title of "varsity," the writer destroyed his own camouflage by playing the "piker." With evident intent of misleading the readers of history he said: "Although the varsity far outclassed Oregon, throughout the evening, by getting five clean falls to their doubtful one, Referee Burden decided it was Oregon's year to be returned the victor, and he therefore made many decisions that could be openly questioned according to reliable men who saw the meet."

The Aggies did get five falls and were given due credit for them by the referee. In the 125-pound and 148-pound events the Black and Gold wrestlers each won their matches in two straight falls that were as well executed as any ever seen on a local mat. Those were, however, only two out of five matches and are not to be considered in connection with the other bouts, where the Oregon men clearly outclassed their opponents. McClain, wrestling against Captain Taylor, got the fifth fall for the Aggies. This match is reported in the Barometer as follows: "The referee gave the Lemon-Lellow man the first fall. It was very evident to the Oregon rooters even, that both of McClain's shoulders did not at any time touch the mat, but Taylor, nevertheless, got the fall. McClain got a clean fall in the second bout, and he was forced to hold Taylor's shoulders tightly pinned to the mat for over a minute before Referee Burden would condescend to give him credit for it. The third bout went to Taylor on a questionable decision."

In another place the Barometer "cub" says: "In the 115-pound match Palmer of O. A. C. was opposed by Flegel, the Oregon entry. In the first of the three bouts, Flegel was given the decision, which the whole O. A. C. delegation protested."

"Both sides agreed before the match that in cases where a close decision presented itself, the man who was on top when the six minutes period was up would be given the decision. When time was called, Palmer was the upper man, but Burden crossed himself and gave the decision to Flegel. The other two bouts were both called draws, thereby making Flegel the winner."

Had we the space to waste that the Barometer has on the ravings of a reporter that does not know the rudiments of fairness, we would like to present more of his prize stuff, that Oregon students might learn to what depths even a college paper can fall for the sake of keeping up outward appearances. But we

will content ourselves with two other quotations, as follows:

"In the 135-pound go, Buttervich of the varsity met Wilson. The decision on the first bout went to the Oregon man and the other two were draws. In the first bout the two men rolled off the mat, and in bringing them back, the referee put Wilson on top, contrary to rules, and as soon as they had taken this position time was called, and crossing himself again, the referee gave Wilson the decision. The other two six-minute bouts were declared draws. They resembled foot races more than anything else with Buttervich chasing his man off the mat time after time, plainly showing that Wilson was stalling for time. By virtue of the one decision, Wilson was declared the winner."

Here is the other quotation: "Oregon's Coach, Shockley, was quoted as saying that 'Oregon would win the match by any means.' This seems almighty evident in Referee Burden's tactics."

"Burden is an old faculty man at Oregon who is at present a Eugene merchant. His selection was loudly protested by Manager Leech. Manager Tiffany, of Oregon, agreed to get Eddie O'Connell of Portland to officiate, which was satisfactory to O. A. C., but O'Connell was reported as unable to come and Leech was not notified to this effect until the last minute, and then Burden's name was proposed by Tiffany. Leech protested this man. According to Tiffany it was either a case of accept him or call off the match. Manager Leech finally agreed to hold the match with Burden as referee, with the result that the O. A. C. team was handed the short end of the score."

The poor sportsmanship display throughout the article is too evident to need any comment, but there are a few points at issue which we hope the Barometer will be fair enough to consider and explain.

Quite plainly because they lost, and thus had their record of seventeen months without a varsity defeat at the hands of Oregon broken, the Aggies charge Referee Burden with being crooked. A charge of this nature is serious under any circumstances but we will give them the benefit of the doubt, understanding at what value they hold victory when they will go to such lengths in "crabbing" over honorable defeat. Why is it that Mr. Burden was satisfactory as a referee for the wrestling match between the two schools two years ago, when the Aggies won five out of six bouts, and not this time?

Why is it that they protest against the decision of a referee who was formerly a member of the University faculty, and who was asked to officiate only when the men who had been agreed could not appear, when the match at O. A. C. last year, in which Oregon lost all but one bout, was refereed by Mr. Brown, a member of their faculty?

What depths have they fallen to when they will lyingly quote the coach of an opposing team as saying, "Oregon would win the match by any means?"

That the editor of the Barometer may have the true facts regarding the wrestling meet of last Saturday night, and thus be in a position to put himself, his paper and his school in the proper light, if he cares to do so, we will state them briefly.

Oregon won, fairly and squarely, three out of the five bouts. In the 165-pound bout Captain Taylor took the first fall without any room for doubt. McClain took the second and Taylor easily earned the decision in the deciding bout. McClain, and it is to be regretted that there were not more of his type in the visiting aggregation, said after the meet that he was satisfied.

Flegel was not given the decision over Palmer in the first bout of their match, nor did either man touch the mat with any part of their persons except their feet in this bout. The first two bouts, in which neither man was off his feet, were both declared draws and Flegel won the third bout after he had initiated his opponent's head and face to every inch of the mat surface. Palmer did not have a top hold on the Oregon man once during the bout and when he did get out from under Flegel at one time, crouched with his head between his hands like an ostrich trying to hide. As to the assertion that the "whole O. A. C. delegation protested" any decision in this match there is no truth. Once during the Wilson-Buttervich go Manager Leech, entirely out of order, did rush on the mat to raise a holler, but aside from this the protests made from the Aggie delegation were confined to verbal encounters with spectators in the stands. We are sorry to destroy the picture which the "delegation," upon its return to Corvallis, painted of itself as martyrs.

Instead of Wilson getting one decision and two draws in his match with Buttervich, as the report in the Barometer read, he got the first and third bouts on pure merit. As for the bouts resembling foot races, there is some truth in that, Wilson having to exert himself every minute to keep up with the retreating Buttervich.

So much for the wrestling meet, but we would also like to have the Barometer give proof of the false statement contained in another story, that Abraham Rosenberg, who won the state oratorical contest, last Friday evening, is "a German born Jew." Rosenberg was born in the United States, and, while his mother was German born, his father was born in this country.

We must admit that three defeats at the hands of Oregon in one week-end must have been a hard pill for the Aggies to swallow, but that does not justify the charges they make against Referee Burden, or Mr. Rosenberg. Nor does it excuse the Barometer in juggling facts to make a story that will meet with the approval of a student body that cannot take defeat as gentlemen and sportsmen.

**HENDRICKS HALL TO BE AT HOME**  
 Eugene and Campus Friends Invited to Come Tuesday from 3 to 5.  
 Dean Elizabeth Fox and the residents of Hendricks hall, will be at home Tuesday afternoon from 3 to 5, to their friends on the campus and in Eugene. Dean Fox, Miss Ruth Wilson, house representative, and Helene Delano, president of woman's league, will be in the receiving line.

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