

SLAT TRACKS

Oregon U Ski Culture Grows---and Grows

No Work to Skiing Now—Just Fun

By PHIL BLADINE

Slat riding University of Oregon ski ducks are popping up in the intercollegiate ski tournaments all over the Pacific coast this winter. Displaying ability that has been latent until this season, the University skiers have been, and plan to continue, throwing hitches into the championship hopes of numerous ski squads this side of the Rocky mountains—and on the other side, too, if any snow field experts have the audacity to venture forth to display their wares.

Making use of a team of four-way skiers—not up, down, backwards, and forwards—but men who can compete in slalom, downhill, cross-country, and jumping events, the Ducks are beginning to get organized for their raids upon Pacific coast ski laurels. They are building their team around a trio of skiers which has jumped from obscurity to prominence in slat-riding circles.

Leading the sliding parade is Walt Wood, captain of the team and ace contestant in the four-way plan of attack. Wait, a junior, transferred to the University two years ago from the University of Utah. While still a babe in arms in his home town, Boise, Idaho, Wait is reputed to have begun learning the intricacies of slalom running. With a year of intercollegiate competition under his belt—last year he was a pioneer at Oregon in organizing a ski team—plus some intensive work at Sun Valley during Christmas vacation—he's flashing his way down the snow paths to new victories.

Walt, Pat Dolan, Sigma Chi four-way artist, and Hank Evans, freshman jumper from Chiloquin, are entering the World's Fair exposition jumping tourney on Treasure Island in the heart of the San Francisco bay, February 26-27. The boys will be trying something new under the west coast sun—and California's "prayed for" old sol—for this is the first intercollegiate tourney to be held on the coast for jumping alone. Too, they will be "sailing to new landings" from one of the highest jumping scaffolds in the world—the 250-foot structure is exceeded only by the jump made for the 1936 Olympic games in Germany. Mob action, rushing to save the Oregon lads from destruction, should be held off, however, until it is realized that scaffold jumps and jumps constructed on the side of a mountain are somewhat different—still the 35 meters (115 feet to most of us) which they will have to jump—that's Class B art—is a long ways to fly with only terra firma landing.

Word that Norm Holt is having plenty of trouble making time slow down enough for him to handle his jobs as ski club prexy and manager of the ski team. Norm was another pioneer in ski organization

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Wie geht's

Indian's definition of skiing: "Walk up a mile then—whooshh!"

We suppose this sudden ski-mindedness on the part of Oregon students is in keeping with the rest of the world; it's up in the air.

Skiing is now a compulsory physical education course in California high schools we are told. We suppose the post-graduate courses will include first aid instruction.

At any rate we hope they'll tell us what "slalom" means, or is.

Whereas the boys used to carry the girls' books home, now they'll be carrying the girls' skis home.

In Oregon skiing is a minor sport, but a major injury.

After wearing those "wooden shoes" around the campus all day, girls should find wearing skis a light load.

Then there is always the skiing enthusiast who, after his second trip out, still thinks a Pure Christiana is the virgin queen of Sweden.

'Snow use. We can't think of anything more.



"It's a great life and now there's no need for weakening" will be the theme song of Lane county skiers from now on as they enjoy the "uphill" power of Ed Thurston's new ski tow put in operation last Sunday in the White Branch ski area, east of Eugene in the McKenzie pass. Above is seen a long line of skiers happily taking advantage of the new tow last Sunday. In the lower photo, Mr. Thurston is going over the intricacies of the machine with Chef Good, Eugene skier. Cut courtesy Register-Guard.

Duck Skiers Schedule Stiff Competition

Tough competition from the crack of the gun—that's what the University of Oregon ski team will be up against during the remainder of the season—and what's more, the team expresses high hopes of coming through the schedule with a lot of wins—against some of the best intercollegiate teams in the United States. Meets scheduled for the rest of this term and competing teams are:

February 18-19: Northwest Pacific Coast Intercollegiate Ski Championships—sponsored by the University of British Columbia on the British Columbia school's home ski area. Competing teams will be: Universities of Idaho, Washington, Oregon; Oregon State college, Washington State college, and Reed college.

February 25-26: Intercollegiate jumping meet on Treasure island in the center of San Francisco bay—sponsored by the University of Nevada and the World's Fair exposition. Competing jumpers will enter from Universities of Washington, Oregon, Utah, Nevada, California, Southern California, and Stanford.

March 3, 4, 5: Pacific Coast Intercollegiate Ski championships—sponsored by the Yosemite Winter Sports club at Yosemite national park. Competing will be teams from Washington, Oregon, Oregon State, Washington State, Idaho, Reed, Utah, Nevada, Modesto junior college, Sacramento junior college, Stanford, California, UCLA, and Southern California. Following this meet the Oregon jumpers will return to San Francisco where they will compete in another jumping contest on Treasure Island.

March 7-8: A dual meet with University of Nevada at Reno.

March 10-17: A week of training at the Sun valley skiing area in Idaho.

March 18: Four-way meet sponsored by Sun valley for Washington, Oregon, Utah, and Nevada. Following this meet the Ducks will return home after a full month's traveling—in time to start the spring term.

A full schedule of meets for the spring term has been arranged, according to Walt Wood, captain of the team.

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Winter Sport Gets Support Of 'Slat Fans'

Eugene Areas Ideal, Enthusiasts Say; Snowmobile, Ski Tow Built

BULLETIN
Late news received last night from the White Branch skiing area in the McKenzie pass reported five feet of snow with more falling. The report indicated excellent prospects for skiing this weekend and said that the road was clear, with chains advised.

Famed Sun Valley or Mt. Hood ski areas will have nothing on Eugene's own private winter playground hereafter if plans laid by Ed. Thurston, Eugene Ski Laufer, continue with the success which they have so far received.

Mr. Thurston installed Sunday, after days of hard labor, a 1600-foot ski tow—the lazy skier's delight—on a long hill in the White Branch recreational area, 60 miles east of Eugene on the McKenzie pass. In addition to his new tow, which will be placed in "wide open" operation this weekend, Mr. Thurston operates a snowmobile for skiers in that area.

Snowmobile Trip Slated
History will be made during the coming weekend, he said last night when the snowmobile crosses the McKenzie pass with a junior team from the Eugene Ski Laufers aboard, bound for the Oregon junior ski championships to be held February 10 and 11 in Bend. The crossing of the pass will be the first ever made by any vehicle during midwinter. Mr. Thurston explained. He added that expectations are for the mayor and all the dignitaries of Bend to meet the "snow boat" with keys to the city and celebration speeches.

The snowmobile will come in handy during the winter, too, if heavy snowfalls should happen to block traffic from reaching the area. Carrying its capacity load of 30 people, the vehicle could bring a lot of people into White Branch, Mr. Thurston said.

First Aid Provided
First aid and a toboggan for moving injured skiers have been added to facilities in the area. He said that tentative prices for the ski tow have been set at 35 cents for the morning and 50 cents in the afternoon—with a flat 75-cent rate for all day usage. A ticket on the tow will allow as many rides as are desired, he explained. It will be in operation Saturday afternoons and Sundays.

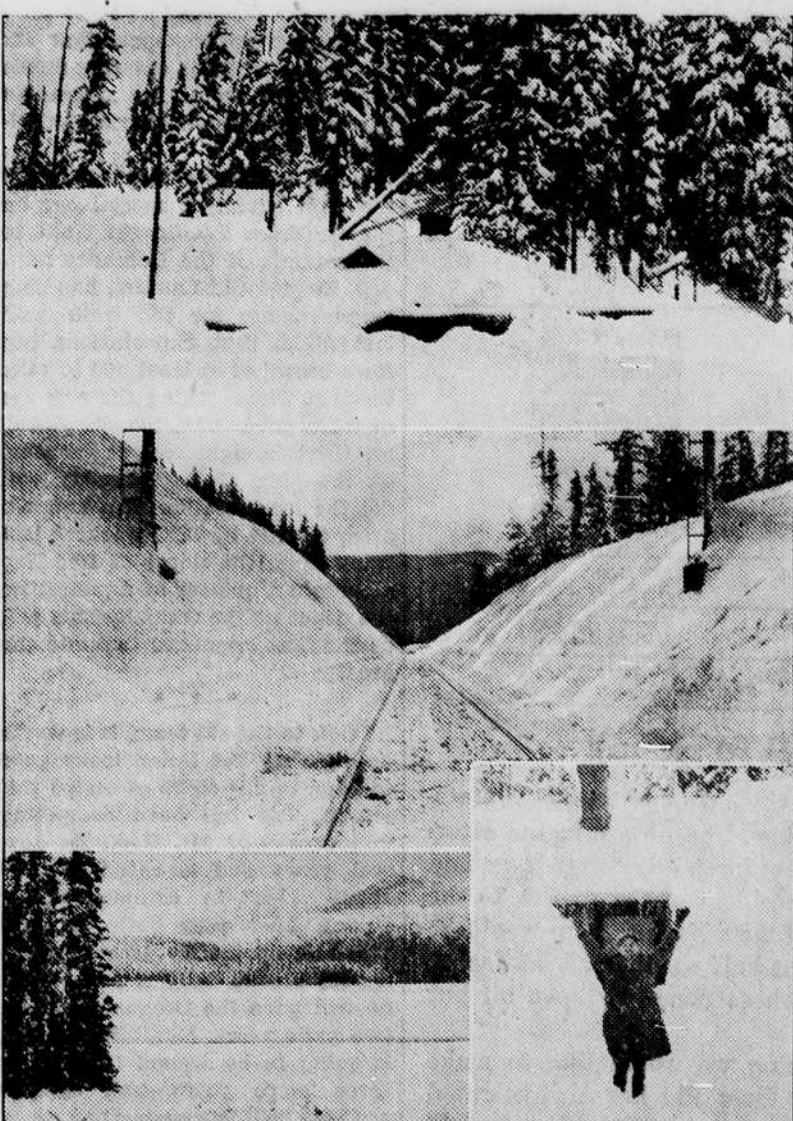
In addition to the outings, the club regularly sponsors ski buses to the snow area. While only one bus has been run so far this term, the club has reserved a special car on the Southern Pacific ski train, sponsored by the Eugene Ski Laufers, to Crescent lake Sunday, and plans to run another bus to White Branch before the end of the term.

Pictures Draw Fans
"There has been a tremendous increase in interest in the club since last year," Holt said. Our moving pictures have been very well liked—in fact we plan to show some films sent to us by the Swiss Federal railroad toward the end of this term."

Another service which the club has provided is the bulletin board at the Kampus Shop as a means for skiers who have no rides to the snow areas to contact skiers who have cars with vacancies. The board should be a big aid to campus skiers in the future, Holt said.

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The King of Winter Sports



Snow scenes... from Crescent lake where many University skiers will spend Sunday when the ski train, sponsored by the Eugene Ski Laufers, is sidetracked there. Tickets are available at many downtown sport stores. Cut courtesy of Eugene Register-Guard.

Campus Interest in Fast Growing Sport Causes Ski Club Boom

Keeping pace with the rapid advance of interest in skiing throughout the country, the University of Oregon ski club has shown steady growth since its organization last year, Norm Holt, president of the club, said yesterday. The club now has a membership of approximately 40, with many more who are not registered, he explained.

Outstanding on the bill of events for the future activity of the club is the overnight outing set for March 25-26, for the first weekend in spring term, Holt said. The outing, advanced because of the favorable reception which last year's event received will be held at the Obsidian cabin near the White Branch ski area in the McKenzie pass.

New "Lift" Ready
Feature attraction of the trip will be the opportunity to make use of the new 1600-foot ski tow set up last week near there by Ed Thurston of Eugene. Last year's outing, which was held at Balknap Springs, was a big success and between 30 and 40 University students made the trip, Holt said.

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UO Slat Riders Slate Long Trek To Four Meets

Treasure Island, Sun Valley Listed In Competition

Join the ski team and see the world!

That's the motto of the University of Oregon varsity skiers. Captain Walt Wood of the ski team announced that a three-man team of Wood, Pat Dolan, and Henry Evans would leave February 23 on a 27-day road trip that will take them to two meets in California, one in Nevada, and one at Sun valley, Idaho.

Treasure Island First
The first meet, the Pacific coast intercollegiate ski jumping tournament, is scheduled for February 25 and 26 on the San Francisco exposition grounds of the world's fair.

Skiing prowess of Oregon's team has evidently reached California because ski officials of the world's fair meet telegraphed Captain Wood and urged that Oregon send a representative. Wood telegraphed a reply that he and Evans and Dolan would enter the meet.

A letter sent Wood a short time ago by the University of Nevada ski club, sponsors of the jumping tournament, stated that funds had been made available for partial transportation expenses of competitors but last night's telegram notified Oregon skiers that all expenses would be paid by the host.

Accommodations will be provided entrants at the Union League club in San Francisco. The club's gymnasium, swimming pool, and all other facilities will be at the disposal of competitors. All participants are invited to attend, free of charge, all events held on the exposition grounds during their stay there.

The snow on the ski jump, a 250-foot structure located in the middle of Treasure island, will be brought in from the mountains on barges. Twelve colleges will be represented at this meet.

Yosemite Next
Following the world fair meet, the team will head for Yosemite for the Pacific coast intercollegiate ski union tourney. The squad will practice three or four days then compete March 3 and 4 in the cross-country, downhill, and slalom events. Since the fourth ski event, jumping, will be held at the world's fair site, the team returns there to finish the meet.

On to Nevada
Meet number three takes the Duck slat riders to Reno for a dual meet on March 7 and 8 with the University of Nevada, the nation's third best ski team.

The fourth meet is head-lined for Sun valley, Idaho, the famous resort owned by the Union Pacific

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