

# DUCK TRACKS

By SAM FIDMAN  
Emerald Sports Editor

The so-called minor sports that dot some university athletic programs, and are conspicuously absent from others, have come in for scads of discussion on or about the University of Oregon campus in recent weeks. Even campus peanut politicians have taken an interest in the possibility of injecting these sports into Oregon's athletic bloodstream.

The platform—or at least one of the boards that went to comprise that platform—of several of our local ward-healers cries out to the public that they will push the planning for an Oregon boxing, wrestling, and possibly skiing program.

All this is indeed a bone for public contention—. "Looka Unca Aggie—hims got skiing; hims got wrestling." Even in pore little Idaho where potatoes grow so well, they have managed to sport a noteworthy boxing squad.

In a letter addressed to this writer, a member of the University of Washington ski team (skiing is a major sport at Seattle), who also serves with his team's publicity department had this to say:

### "Oregon—Get Hot"

"The U of W has another great ski team this year; it should be either number one or two in the country. I don't see Oregon listed in any of the Northern Division meets. I don't know how they treat skiing down there, but Oregon seems to be the only school in the Northwest that isn't entered. It is a major sport at both Washington and WSC now, and other schools are giving it more and more support. Oregon ought to get hot. There are a lot of good men in that area and most of them are coming to Washington or OSC now."



LEO HARRIS

"We will be happy to provide verification of the authenticity of the letter to any party that might suspect a home-made, brew-in-the-bathtub job. With all the clamor, then, in favor of putting Oregon on the smaller sports map, it seemed within the confines of logic to investigate the situation.

### The One-Man Team

Also logically, the one man who says so, as far as people who have the say-so, is Athletic Director Leo Harris. We have unearthed the athletic department's stand on the subject for the benefit of participants on the present unofficial Oregon ski team, for those who aspire to guard their alma mater on and on with their mitts, and for the peanut politik body.

In the year 1947, when Leo I stepped to the throne of Oregon athletics, there was an almost immediate plan to form a Web-foot varsity ski team, with official sanction from the head department. A budget had been set aside for the purpose—and a squad of ten men had met to form the nucleus of the outfit.

Then what happened—why doesn't Oregon have a ski team? Because nine of those ten students proved ineligible to compete. The lone remaining soul did not feel capable of collecting all the sitz marks—so everything went up in a cloud. As a matter of fact, it is all still in that cloud—and that which goes up must come down?

Harris further pointed out, as far as skiing is concerned, the Oregon campus is not ideally suited for access to the snowy slopes—Leo himself enjoys skiing—and especially there are no practically accessible points where jumping might be practiced. To march even deeper into the cold night—where can Leo find a man to handle ski coaching—? There is a world of difficulty in landing able men to coach Oregon sports.

### Dig for Your Coaches

Leo has had to dig into a downtown law office for his golf coach—and he got a darned good one in Sid Milligan. However, in order to find a coach for Oregon varsity tennis, to replace last year's player-coach Saal Lesser, the Athletic chief has run into a wall which has only recently shown signs of giving away. A member of the Oregon faculty at present is the leading candidate to fill that vacancy.

Harris, who carried the Stanford colors into the ring, light-heavyweight division, in his own collegiate days, would be most receptive to a boxing program. It is the only one of three proposed sports that can pay for itself—or more than pay for itself. . . . But here there are more problems. Who can coach boxing? How can the athletic department go about keeping gambling away from the sport if it is introduced here? How long is a piece of string, etc.

## Eugene Lieutenant Gets Promotion

First Lt. Eugene M. Stahl, Eugene, has been promoted to the rank of captain in the Air Re-

serve, according to an announcement from the Portland Air Force Reserve Training Center.

Captain Stahl is assigned to the 66th Troop Carrier Squadron of the 403rd Group, stationed at the Portland Airport.

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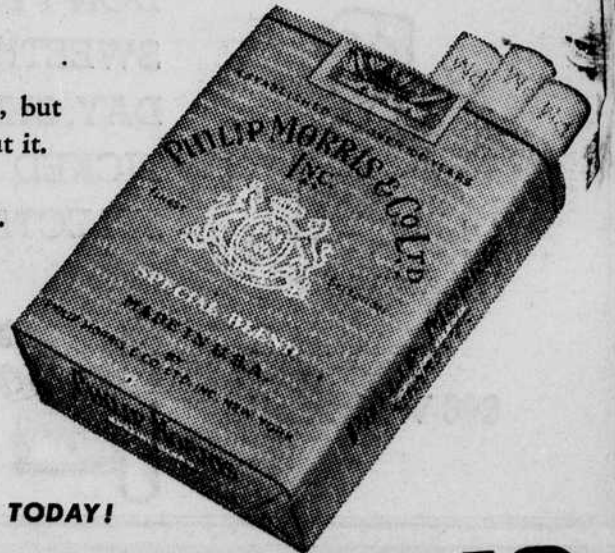
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