

# DUCK TRACKS

By PETE CORNACCHIA  
Emerald Sports Writer

Several persons have asked me about this new one-second pause ruling for baseball pitchers—what's it all about, and that sort of thing.

(That really isn't true. Nobody ever asks me to explain anything, except three weeks ago when there's a question on the board which says to explain the significance of the bottle opener in the days of Nicholas II. Be specific and brief. Nevertheless, we've brought up the subject of the one-second pause ruling).

The ruling is only five words longer than it was last year and all the years before that. It's of concern only when there are runners on first or second and the pitcher has his windup taken away. The 1949 Good Book for horsehide disciples stated that in such a situation the pitcher, after taking his stretch, "must return to a natural pitcher's position and stop before starting his delivery of the ball to the batsman." This year's Rules Committee didn't think that was good enough and added the stipulation that the stop must be of at least one second.

All in all, the effort was supposed to be for the benefit of the batter but actually it provides comfort and aid for the pitcher, for he can use that one second to keep a steady eye on the base runner.

The penalty for failing to halt all of one second is a balk called by the ump, which of course hurts with runners on.

Some of the nastiest remarks against the ruling so far have come from the chuckers in the Pacific Coast League, with the old-timers making the loudest noise. Old mossbacks such as Grumpy Guy Fletcher and Red Adams shouldn't have any trouble with such a minor thing, but perhaps they get confused with all the petty changes as we do with the constant asinine changes in registration procedure here. If the PCL managers fined guilty hurlers 50 bucks a throw, as did Portland's Bill Sweeney until Adams had four balks in one game, it's still doubtful that the total sum would equal the several thousand dollars raked in on late fees this term at Oregon.

Sure, this isn't the best place to discuss late fees but it fits in with the idea that most of the law makers can't let a good thing stand as is. There have to be such things as the two-minute rule, the pink card system, and the three green, two yellow, and two pink cards.

Anyway, there's little evidence that any of Don Kirsch's pitchers are bothered by this full-second-pause business. So far this week, Mel Krause, Swede Johnson, Jim Hanns, and the rest are taking plenty of time after the stretch before firing at the plate.

Another change we've got to face around here is the absence of heavily-bearded faces which were common on college ball clubs during the past few years. Most of the veterans either have graduated or signed with professional clubs, which makes this a building year for Kirsch. The players don't reminisce over the social opportunities along Pigalle or Piccadilly, or join in songs about the clover. Seems as though the talk is more about just plain baseball and the chatter is louder.

## About the Gals, Bless 'Em

Something that never changes is the female baseball fan. We've got to give the jokers in the golden chair credit for not attempting to change the wording in this complicated field. The dears (the girls, not the rule committees) seem to have difficulty in grasping the big picture, a trouble which brings incoherent statements similar to those heard in English Lit.

For instance, when the locals are behind a run or two but have the bags (baseball term in this case) loaded, with two out, and the visiting pitcher is winding up, does a gal usually yell "Slam 'er, Joe!"?

No, chances are she'll turn to the boy friend and ask him to get her a sack of peanuts. She's hungry.

## Buck Barks and Bites

Speaking of people who do a lot of talking at ball games without saying much, Buck Bailey again will bring more than his foghorn voice to Eugene a week from tomorrow when the Ducks host Washington State in the conference opener at Howe Field. Bailey could come to town by himself and draw a crowd large enough to give Leo Harris a restful night, but he always brings his Cougar nine—usually a pennant-bound outfit.

Bailey has lost pitchers Rocky, Stiles, and Torgeson to graduation but word has it that he has some more good hurlers—among them is big Gene Conley, who lost a three-hitter recently to Whitman.



DON KIRSCH

# Anybody Can Make Music, Spaeth Tells Eugene Audience

By WALLY BENSON

Sigmund Spaeth, noted New York author, musician, and music critic told a small audience of townspeople and students Tuesday night that anyone can "make a little music for his own pleasure" if he likes it well enough.

Speaking in MacArthur Court on "Music For Fun," Spaeth completely captivated his audience with his off-the-cuff comments on popular songs that have been lifted from the classics and his instructions to the novice musician on how to take a few chords and make his own music.

**Tuesday night a renowned musician, author, and critic brought his talents to the University of Oregon. Although no admission was charged, only about 400 persons attended.**

**On reaching the microphone, Spaeth looked over the sparsely populated auditorium and quipped, "Well anyway, I can see that we are represented tonight by quality rather than quantity."**

"Whatever is worth playing well is worth playing bad," he stated. "Only one person out of 10,000 has real musical talent that can be developed, but anybody at all can learn to play the piano in five minutes—for fun.

### Music Like Bridge

"Music should have a sand-lot appeal. As long as the player likes it and is having fun, that's all that matters. Music is like bridge. If there weren't so many bad bridge players, there wouldn't be so many people playing the game."

Speaking of the "classics" Spaeth said that they are the compositions which endure because of their permanent appeal to the intellect, the emotions, and the physique.

"The average life of a popular tune is about six weeks," he stated. "When the people get tired of a hit tune they reject it and get something else—something new but not any better.

### Tschaikowsky Has Schmaltz

"Now Tschaikowsky's melodies have what we today call "schmaltz" or "oomph" and many a hit tune has been based on a simple, beautiful passage from one of his symphonies or concertos.

"Chopin is another. Following release of the motion picture "A Song To Remember" an entire new and enormous audience was introduced, for the first time, to the works of this composer. His 'Polonaise' is the most popular record ever sold by R.C.A. Victor Records. From that song came the popular hit tune "Till the End of Time." It was the most popular song of the year."

### Known For Three Years

The popular song writers got to Rachmaninoff just before his death, the music critic continued. Most people, according to Spaeth, knew Rachmaninoff for his Prelude in C Minor. (That is—they knew the first three notes of the piece). Following the appearance of about six different pictures that featured his Second Piano Concerto, the composer was once again made popular by the song writers who came out with "Full Moon and Empty Arms."

### Best Arrangement

Stating that the people will find their way to the permanent music in the long run, Spaeth told of the musician who, after hearing all the modern arrangements of Rachmaninoff's Second Piano Concerto,

heard, for the first time, the Horowitz-Toscanini performance of the original. "The man was visibly moved," he stated. "He said that it was the best arrangement of the song that he had heard yet!"

In one of his many humorous statements during the course of the evening, the critic mentioned the two lawsuits charging plagiarism against the composer of "Nature Boy."

"I have seen pictures of the composer," he announced. "I think only one suit would be enough."

## French Table Today

The French Table will be held at noon today at the Anchorage.

The Thursday gatherings are open to any interested persons who to speak French.

## CAMPUS CALENDAR

- 12:00 Order of the O, Alpha Tau Omega.
- 5:30 Inter-fraternity Council, Beta Theta Pi, Alpha Phi Omega, YMCA.
- 6:30 Scabbard and Blade, Room 1, ROTC Building.
- 6:45 Young Republicans, 2 Oregon.

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