

Duck Tracks

By John Whitty

A constant source of irritation to college coaches in Oregon, as well as the alumni and students of the institutions where they are located, is the difficulty which Oregon institutions of higher education experience in keeping local high school athletes in the state.

In most cases of recent years, whenever an athlete of really great promise appears in the state prep circles, he is spirited away to some out of state college or university to continue his education, and incidentally, to give his all on the athletic fields of his chosen alma mater.

Since the financial resources to be used for "aiding needy athletes through school" at the University of Oregon are necessarily limited by the small seating capacity of its athletic stadiums, especially the football stands, it cannot afford to compete with the larger institutions on a financial basis. Consequently it has lost a number of promising athletes to out of state schools, especially those in California.

No Scandal Here

Furthermore, the Athletic Department at Oregon has decided on a policy of selling the school as an educational institution rather than emphasizing the financial angle of the athletic program. The recent scandals in basketball in the eastern part of the nation indicate that it might be a good idea if other colleges would operate on the same basis. Too much commercialism in college athletics is not good. It is only a short step from accepting money from the school for playing ball to accepting money from gamblers and others for not playing ball.

The most recent example of an Oregon prep star leaving the state to play for another school is six-foot, seven Dean Parsons, former Eugene football and basketball great, who is now playing for Tippy Dye's Washington Huskies.

Two more Oregon high school athletes who were lured away from their home state by other schools are Al Hansen, a tremendous prospect at Grant two years ago, and Pat Duff, who played his last season for USC this fall. Both were football players of considerable ability, and Hansen, at least, was reported to have made up his mind to attend the University of Oregon, but he enrolled at Southern Methodist instead.

State Preps Loaded

It will be interesting to note what happens to this year's crop of high school all-staters and near all-staters. In the cage sport alone, the state is admittedly loaded with talent.

Probably the best known prep basketball anywhere in Oregon is giant seven-foot, one Wade Halbrook, sensation from Lincoln High school in Portland. The eyes of college coaches all over the nation have been on Halbrook ever since he scored a total of 51 points in a Portland Intra-city Basketball league game last year.

This year, however, the "Splendid Spire" has made his last year's performances drop out of the minds of his followers. In a game against Molalla high school, big Swede dropped in 66 points for a new state prep record. Then just last Friday, he broke his own Portland City league record of 51 with a phenomenal 57 point spree against Washington High school. Admittedly, Halbrook's teammates were "feeding him" in both games, but 66 points is still 66 points, no matter how you look at it.

Two more prep hoopsters of considerable fame who will be graduating this year are six-foot, six Bob Anderson, from Jefferson high school, and six-foot, three Bob Altenhofen, from Central Catholic High school of Portland. Both have received all-state recognition at the annual state tournament here in Eugene, and either would be a welcome addition to the Web-foot basketball squad.

A Husky Typewriter

For those of you who neglected to read the Oregon Journal last Saturday, the following quotes from Marlowe Branagan's write-up of Friday's Oregon-Washington basketball game.

Branagan writes, "But it was a disorganized, discouraged and inept band which was blasted like no other Oregon quint has been blasted in recent years." A little later in the article, Branagan states, "The Webfoots took it upon themselves to come up with a display which wouldn't have worried the 'bloomer girls from Bloomington...they were that bad."

Evidently Branagan's "all-seeing knowledge" not only extends to the field of sports, but also refutes all known mathematical rules. He states, "All in all, the Ducks' point total from a basket-scoring standpoint went like this by quarters: first 2, second 2, third 1, fourth 2. Add 'em up any way one wants and it still spells nine baskets." Two and two and one and two equals nine. It seems like seven to me. Anyway, thanks for inspiring confidence in the team, Marlowe.

Actor Maintains Professor's Role In Coming Play Requires Aloofness

"I must maintain an analytical viewpoint of the play, and not become emotionally involved," explained Gerry Pearce of his part in "All the Kings Men," opening next Friday night.

Pearce plays the role of the professor who is not actually involved in the action of the play, but sits at a desk in the orchestra pit to comment and explain the scenes.

Pearce, as the professor, has to ask some actors to appear before the audience, in special scenes, to demonstrate that in the light of history, what appears to be immoral, may actually, in the long run have moral consequences.

"Although I have a theory which I am demonstrating, I find it hard to maintain the analytical quality in moments when all hell is bursting out around my ears," Pearce said.

Pearce believes the whole problem of the play interesting because it deals with the problem of corruption and government, which is not just a problem typical of today, but a perennial problem.

Valentine's Day will be the fourth anniversary of Pearce's residence in the United States. Prior to that time he lived in Bagdad, Iraq, where his English parents were engaged in the import-export business. In Pearce's own words, his father imports "everything from cotton thread to Scotch whiskey."

Pearce attended six years of grade school and three years of high school before entering Oregon State college. He reports that the high schools in Iraq (Pearce attended American Jesuit-sponsored high school) have a strictly academic course and one learns more than in an American high school. However, Pearce speaks both English and Arabic and could read and write somewhat in both languages before entering school.

Wobbly Webfoots

(Continued from page four) been "better" this week, but would make no promises regarding the outcome against the Gaels.

He would name no starting line-up as yet, but indications are that he will look for new winning combinations.

It is probable that St. Mary's will open with the following line-up: Bagley and George McLaughlin at forwards; Gibson at center; and Bob Steinkamp and Drew Turner at guards.

SPORTS STAFF

Desk Editor: Larry Lavelle.
Staff: Bill Gurney, John Whitty, Norm Webb and Bill Brandsness.

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Though he hasn't lived permanently anywhere besides Iraq and the United States, Pearce spent about six months in India in 1941 when women and children were evacuated from Iraq during a rebellion.

Pearce came to the United States to attend school because he felt it to be a country not yet fully developed. He landed in New York, having come by boat, and came west to Los Angeles to visit relatives. He entered Oregon State a short time later and transferred to Oregon after two years.

He reports his experiences fun to look back on, but has no immediate plans for returning to Iraq. Pearce said he hopes eventually to become an American citizen.

Pearce's first role in a main stage production was the Baron in "Madwoman of Chaillot." He also was assistant director and stage manager for "Circus Days," children's theater production, in December.

Summing up his theatrical experiences, Pearce has but one comment, "Fun!"

Duck Lover Acts

HAMBURG, Ia (U.P.) — Authorities here looked for a duck-lover with a Carrie Nation complex. Someone walked down a row of 16 hunters' boats and chopped a hole in the bottom of each with a hatchet.

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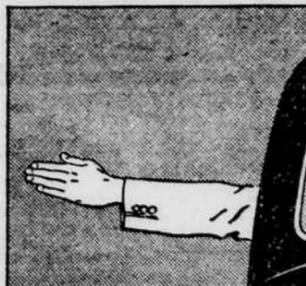


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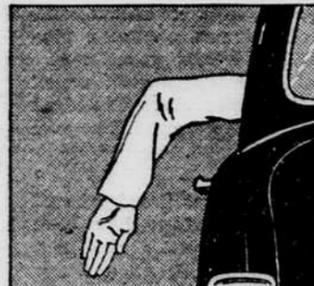
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