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# Borcher, New Hoop Mentor, Played for Oregon in 1941

By Bill Gurney

A new coach has been added to the Oregon basketball scene since Dad's day last year. Bill Borcher, familiar to sports followers of the 1941 Duck basketball team as a varsity forward, returned to take over the reigns from John Warren, former head basketball coach who resigned to enter business.

Borcher learned his basketball fundamentals from Howard Hobson, who had coached the Ducks to the NCAA title in 1939. He came to Oregon from Marshfield high school where he compiled an outstanding won-loss record in his six years there.

**Always Favored Sports**

He has always liked sports best, especially basketball, but his coaching career has been enlivened by an interest in music, notably by Dixieland jazz. His dressing room pep talks are short and to the point, with plenty of time allotted for the playing of soothing num-

bers like the "Muskrat Ramble."

Born in 1919, Borcher played football and basketball in Everett, Washington, until his junior year in high school, when he moved to North Bend, Oregon, just

manner of Hobson lured him to Oregon to play basketball.

In his two Duck varsity seasons he was never a star; always a capable workman on the backboards, excelling as a feeder for teammate Hank Anderson, now coach at Gonzaga university.

**He Got Mad**

"It makes me mad, too," says the tall, bespectacled mentor, "because I read in a basketball book by Hobson that my shooting average was higher than Hank's."

Borcher earned an Oregon football letter in 1941 for Tex Oliver, and joined the navy after graduation that fall.

He says that during his navy hitch he really learned to play basketball; also he had his first coaching experience while working for Uncle Sam. He coached and played at the Jacksonville, Fla., Naval Air Station, netting a spot on the all-Southern team. Other navy duty included a period as assistant recreation director of the Hawaiian Islands, and a tour of the Pacific aboard the aircraft carrier Wasp, where he coached the basketball team.



**BILL BORCHER**

z stone's throw from Marshfield. There he finished his prep career and headed for Sacramento JC in search of higher education.

**Nearly a Journalist**

A leaning toward journalism cropped out there, and he rose to be sports editor of the school paper. "I quit when they promoted me to managing editor and I couldn't write sports," stated Borcher with a grin.

At Sacramento he was marked, ironically enough, as a top football prospect, but only fair in the hoop sport. But the persuasive

**Unemployed for Awhile**

After VJ day, Borcher was an unemployed veteran, so he had a talk with genial John Warren, whom he was later to replace at Oregon. Warren smoothed the way for him to take the basketball job at Marshfield high.

For his six seasons there he compiled a fine record of 158-38, and was in the state tournament every year. Highlights of Marshfield's tournament competition were a state championship in 1947, and a second-place finish in 1948. Current Duck Captain Ken Hunt was an all-state choice for the Pirates in 1948, as was Guard Barney Holland, now a sophomore on the Oregon varsity, in 1949.

**Played Cornet**

While in Coos Bay, Borcher was also the cornet-playing leader of a Dixieland jazz band. Not the outdoor sportsman type, music is second only to basketball among his interests.

As to his basketball system, he says it is based on constant screening to break men loose for good shots, with extensive use of the traditional Duck fast break.

At this writing the Webfoots sport a Northern Division record of two wins and two losses. Their standing changed as a result of last night's Washington tilt, and they are all set for tonight's crucial finale.

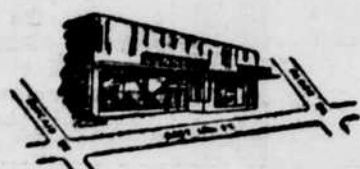
One thing is certain; their new coach, who is certainly a talkative, confident optimist, will be pulling out all the stop to win. Losing just isn't in his blood.

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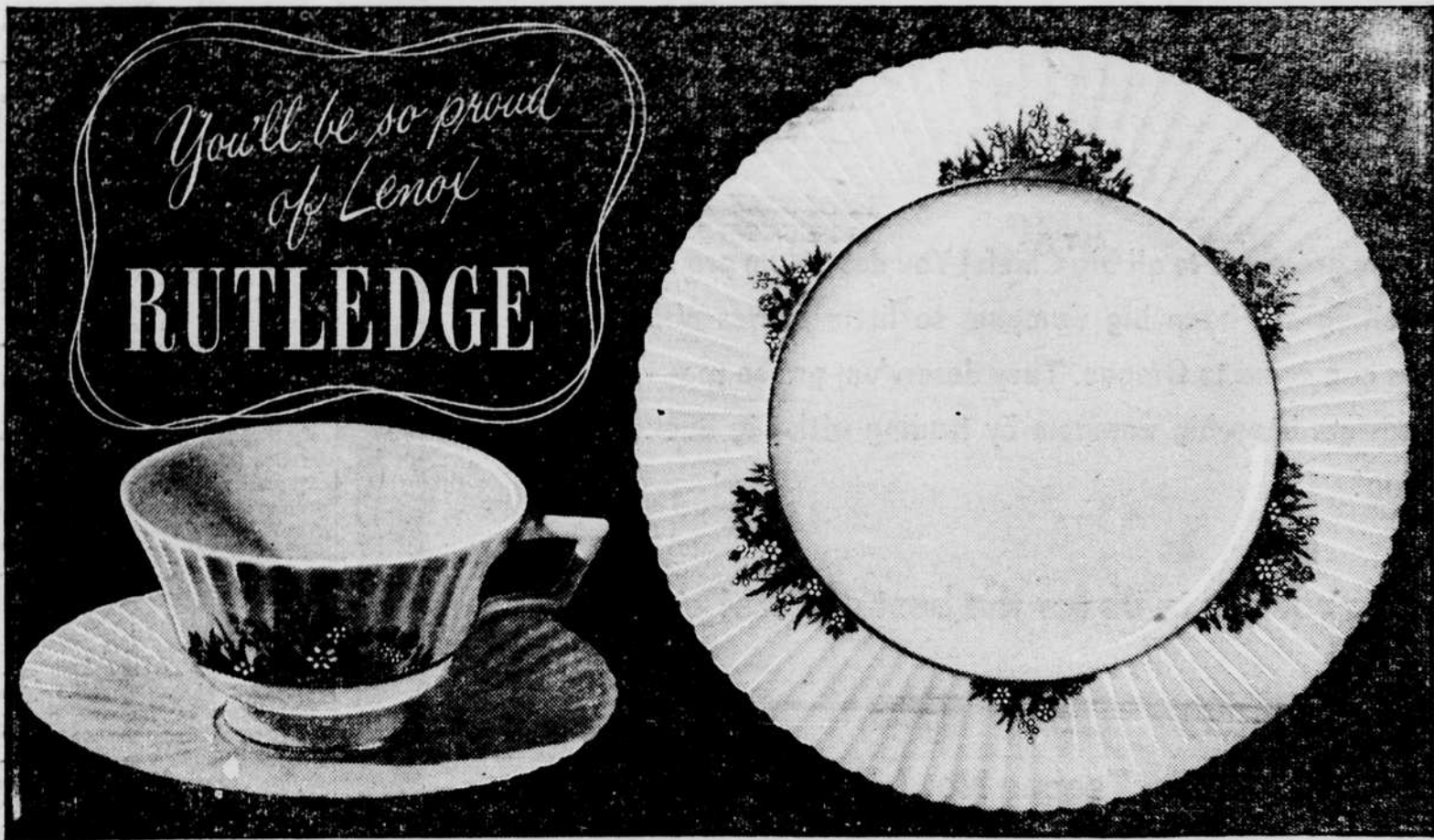
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