

Duck Tracks

By Bill Gurney
Emerald Sports Editor

At this point, with the big OSC series coming up, it seems only fitting that we say something about what is known as school spirit.

One thing which is particularly important is that it would perhaps be more in keeping with the spirit of the atmosphere of coming Oregon basketball games if the students would cheer once in a while.

After all, it is the accepted thing to do, and outsiders might even get the impression that Oregon students do not especially care whether or not their team wins.

And think of how it must disillusion alumni to come back to the alma mater with memories of the famous "Oregon spirit" of yore. All they have heard at recent basketball games is the respectful silence more usually affected in the presence of the dead.

No, we are not quite right about that, either. Most recent games have been graced about every two or three minutes by playful cries directed toward the men in striped suits who try manfully to keep the contests from degenerating into pier six brawls.

Such helpful little comments as "Ya blind bum, ya," or "Why doncha get glasses," or "Ya dirty robbers," have been uttered with truly admirable spirit, and have been freely interspersed with rousing renditions of the good old Bronx cheer.

One Way to Stop Guisness

Another cute angle which has been effectively worked is the practice of getting behind the glass backboards at McArthur court and waving white handkerchiefs while some one like Frank Guisness shoots a free throw. Meanwhile it is even better if about 200 young men with leather lungs simultaneously cast aspersions on his character. Of course we admit that it is very hard to prevent a man like Guisness from scoring in any other manner.

We might mention here that the male segment of the student body is more at fault on both booing and lack of constructive cheering than the female.

We don't know why girls cheer more and boo less—maybe the old saw about "little girls are made of sugar and spice and everything nice" is true.

Cheer Leaders Not at Fault

The poor spirit is not the fault of the cheer leaders. They are certainly trying their best, and do not deserve to be greeted with silence.

In regard to the OSC game at Corvallis Friday, Yell King Paul Lasker said:

"The spirit shown by the OSC team against Idaho Monday and Tuesday was very fine. And this is surprising considering the fact that OSC is lower in the conference standings than Oregon. Also Oregon State was very considerate in reserving the special section for Oregon students Friday. So I hope that this section will be completely filled with our students, and that they will make a good showing in the cheering department."

The remainder of this column is written by ex-Emerald sports editor Phil Johnson, who is now Emerald assistant managing editor:

Johnson Tells of Kirsch-Valenti Rivalry

It appears that Oregon Jayvee Coach Don Kirsch and Beaver JV Mentor Paul Valenti are engaged in a long-standing feud.

It all started back in 1941 when Kirsch, Bill Borchert and their teammates fell to the Beavers as Valenti broke a tie with a free throw in the last six seconds.

Once again, in 1942, Kirsch and company watched unhappily as Valenti sank four long shots without a miss from a point near the center of the floor.

Seven years later, in 1949, Kirsch became coach of the Oregon Frosh. Their chief rivals, of course, were Coach Paul Valenti's OSC Rooks.

The Rooks grabbed four straight triumphs over the Frosh, and the following season gave Kirsch an opportunity for revenge. His hoop artists captured three wins in four attempts from the Rooks in 1950 and seven triumphs in eight "Little Civil War" games in 1951.



DON KIRSCH

Ping Pong Tourney To End on Friday

Second and third eliminations in the current Student Union ping pong tournament will be played today from 3 to 5.

The second game eliminations are scheduled for 3:00 and the third game eliminations are scheduled for 4:00. Any of the participants not sure who they are to play can check with the elimination ladder posted at the SU recreational desk all day tomorrow.

The winner of each of tomorrow's games should check with the recreation desk to locate his next opponent. Final playoffs will be Friday from 3 to 5. The tournament is being sponsored by the SU recreation committee.

Football Meeting

A meeting for football players will be held in McArthur Court on Thursday at 4:00 p.m.

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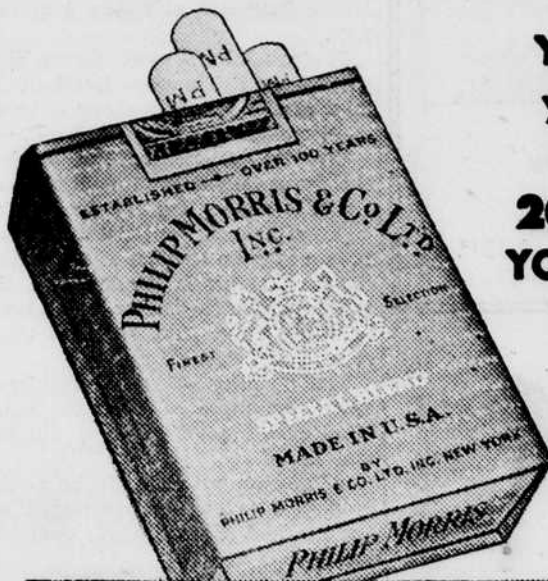
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