

Duck Tracks

By Rodney Morrison

Big Ed carefully selected a smooth pebble and thoughtfully tossed it into the lake.

"Careful," cautioned Algernon, "you'll scare the tadpoles."

Big Ed ignored him. "Ignore the ignorant" was his motto. Anyway, he was thinking: What right did a stumblebum like Algernon have to interfere with his higher intellectual processes?

"By the way," Algernon squeaked, "did you hear about the big baseball game yesterday?"

I'll answer him, thought Big Ed, then we can have a big argument and he'll get mad and he won't bother me tomorrow. Big Ed dipped his toe gracefully in the water. "Baseball is a farce," he remarked.

"Don't be ridiculous," replied Algernon, dropping his pole because he felt a bite and didn't want to catch a fish because then he'd have to clean it. Fish are so messy.

Po' Pole

The pole slithered like a snake, slowly weaving its way into the murky waters. "There goes your toothpick," said Big Ed.

"Virgil 'Fire' Trucks pitched a no-hit game yesterday," said Algernon, waving goodbye to the rapidly-disappearing timber.

"Yes," replied Big Ed, "I noticed that the Washington Senators' box score had more goose-eggs than porcupines have quills, but I think old Virgil was lucky."

"Lucky!" echoed Algernon, his voice booming across the cold water, "That was skill."

Big Ed flicked a flea from the arm of his battered Old Siwash letterman's sweater, cleared his throat and stated calmly: "Baseball is a game of chance. Pennants are decided by little things like pebbles on the infield, or the precise angle of a swinging stick connecting with a spheroid or the blinding glare of the sun. I venture that Washington was about as lucky as a Mississippi Republican."

"Here's an example," continued Big Ed, "suppose that we have a great pitcher—call him Bob Grapefruit—and he's pitching a no-hit game. There are two out in the ninth inning, so Grapefruit bears down on the batter and fires in a perfect strike. The batter misses."

"Dat's skill," observed Algernon, lazily watching the drifting clouds moving overhead.

"Right," replied Big Ed, "and he fires another perfect strike, and the batter misses again."

"Skill."

"Precisely. As a matter of fact he is too skillful."

"Whyso dat?" inquired Algernon, beginning to wish that his fishing pole was back. It would make a good clothesline.

"It's dis way—I mean this way—if Grapefruit hadn't been so skillful, the batter would have hit the ball."

"Granted."

"And, with Grapefruit being just a little less skillful, the batter would have hit the ball non-solidly, either topping it and hitting an easy grounder or swinging under it and lofting a simple pop fly."

Algernon Agrees

"As a matter of fact, yes."

"So the batter would have been out, and the game would be over."

"Admittedly."

"Leave Lee out of this. Now the batter isn't out. Instead, he has one more strike and an opportunity to hit a home run, merely because the pitcher is too skillful. Skill is penalized."

"What's de meaning of dis in de infinite scheme of things?"

"You wouldn't understand," Big Ed replied, with a sneer. "However, the average game of baseball has more lucky breaks than Communists have lies. Many pennant-winning squads have about a .600 win-loss average. That means they win about six of every ten games. In other words, they lose four out of ten. Now why should a championship team lose three or four of every ten games if there is not a great amount of chance involved?"

"They have 'off' days," answered Algernon, wondering whether or not Throckmorton was cooking the beans yet.

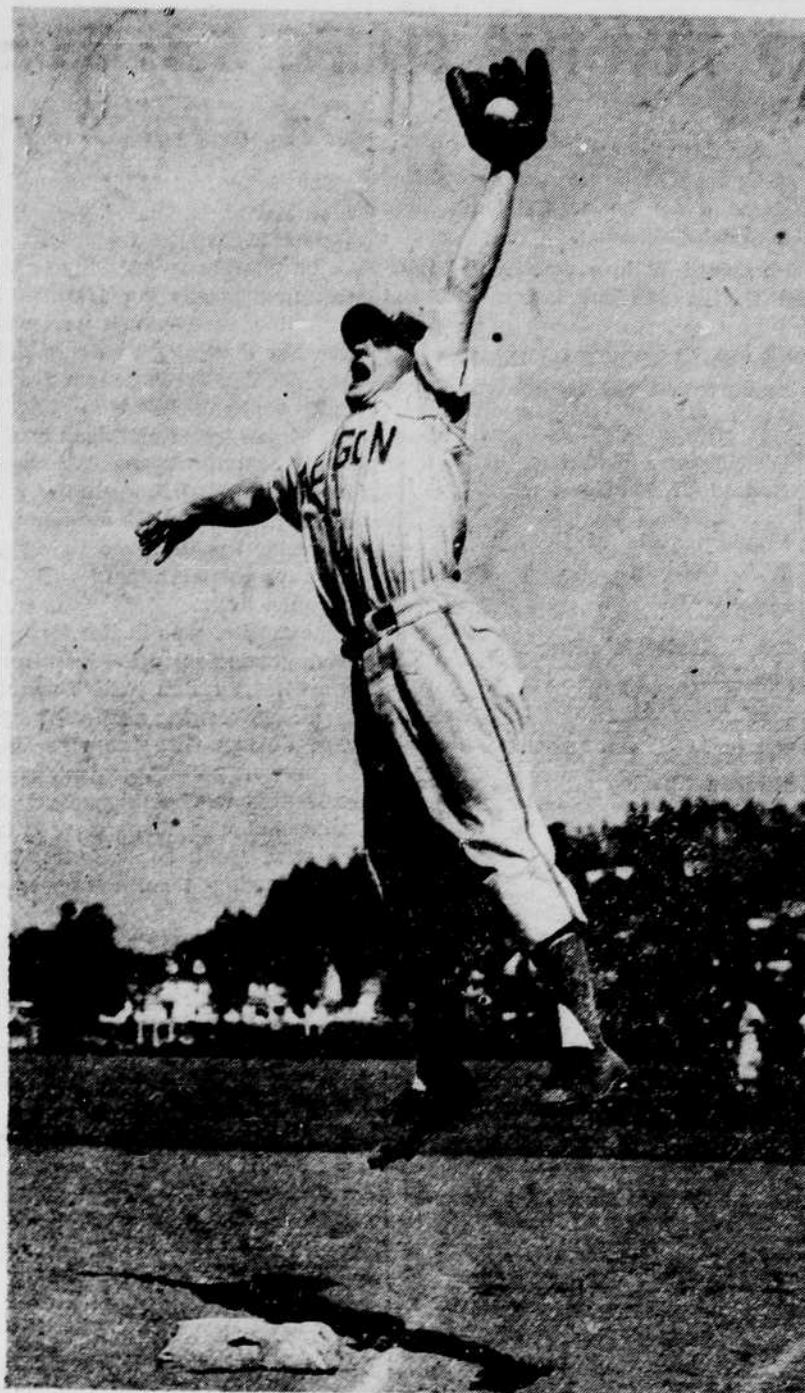
"Well, aren't you lucky if the other guy is having 'of' days?" Algernon didn't answer.

anyway, Algernon thought bitterly.

er, Aloysius, racing dramatically across the sand dunes, pursued by three mountain lions and a cocker spaniel. They'll get him, thought Algernon, bitterly, just like they got Fauntleroy. He shed a tear.

"Say, the Yankees play in 15 minutes," said Big Ed. They jumped up and gaily tripped over the hill, hoping that they could reach the little log cabin in time to tune in the broadcast.

... Aloysius was drowning. It had never happened before, and he didn't like it one bit, either. He came up for the last time. He was going over the falls. Then it happened. He spotted a fishing pole, and grasped for it. He missed.



DARYLE NELSON
Now Catch the Beavers...

Huskies Threaten...

Ducks Wage First Place Fight As Four Game Aggie Series Opens

(Continued from page four)
in the first tilt at Eugene, and Oregon seizing the second by a 12-5 count in a game played at Corvallis.

On the mound for the Beavers will probably be Don White, a southpaw senior who has compiled a 2-2 record in the Northern Division this year.

Coach Don Kirsch will probably rely on his mound ace, lefthander Don Siegmund, to carry the load for the Webfoots in Saturday's tilt.

Since the 16-game schedule was

adopted by the Northern Division in 1920, the University of Oregon has swalked off with the pennant eight times, while the Cougars of Washington State have taken the ND crown in six seasons.

Oregon State has four Northern Division championships in the diamond sport to its credit.

Oregon and WSC are the only two ND teams which have never finished the season in the ND cellar, while the Beavers have ended in last place only once.

Cosmopolitan Program Planned for Tonight

Cosmopolitan club will meet tonight at Plymouth House on 13th avenue and Ferry street.

There will be an evening of social dancing beginning at 8 p.m. and a coffee hour later for all foreign and American students who wish to come.

The Silver Star is awarded for gallantry in action which does not warrant the award of the Distinguished Service Cross.

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Emerald Names Mural All-stars

(Continued from page four)

Jack Atthowe is the shortstop on the IM club. During the season Jack played nearly every position in the infield for Sigma hall, but it was at the shortstop position that he excelled. The combination of Atthowe and Harding shows signs of an excellent double play combination.

The hot corner is taken care of by Bob Altman of Alpha Tau Omega. Bob's hitting, particularly that of home runs is his main qualification for the job. During the season he hit over a half dozen four masters for the ATOs.

Berg in Left

In the pastures of this imaginary all star club are three men whose abilities can't be overlooked. The first is Art Berg of Phi Sigma Kappa. This Phi Sig hit more than one game-winning base knock while also displaying top-notch fielding form. The center-fielder is Ken Ball, field captain of the champion Betas. Ken holds the distinction of hitting the longest ball in modern IM history. In one game he smacked it up on the top of the roof of Hayward field. The third and last member of this all star trio is Neil Flanagan, right-fielder from Cherney hall. It was Neil's outstanding play in the playoffs of league five that cinched the title for the freshman dorm and gave them a berth in the playoffs.

SU Board Decides To Screen Petitions

Decision to begin the screening of petitions this week for the fall term committee chairmen of the 11 SU program committees was reached at the SU board meeting Wednesday.

The board also approved a revision of the report on the forum committee that is to be put into operation this fall. The change now provides that presidents and representatives of campus organizations in related fields will be invited to sit in at the forum meetings so they can plan their programs to avoid conflicting schedules.

Saturday, SU Director R. C. Williams and the members of this term's board will meet with the new board members to explain their jobs and responsibilities.



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