

EMERALD Sports

Billiard Expert Likes Everyone

By Buzz Nelson

Emerald Assistant Sports Editor

"Will Rogers with a cue." That's Charlie Peterson, the balding 77-year old billiards wizard who exhibited his skill at the Student Union Tuesday and Wednesday.

Peterson talks, smiles, likes everyone, and is the world's greatest trick shot billiards artist.

Under the auspices of the 240-member Association of College Unions, he makes yearly rounds of campuses, giving exhibitions and billiards lessons. Those who have seen him perform will never forget his uncanny skill.

In his 25th year of touring American colleges and universi-



CHARLEY PETERSON
Artist With Cue

ties, Peterson says the Student Unions are responsible for the uplirt in billiards today.

Recalling the times when dimly lit billiards (pool if you prefer) emporiums were the hangouts of gangsters, he cites the college unions as a force that is making the game respectable.

Boy's Club Praised

"The Boy's Clubs of America are doing a swell job, too," he stated.

"And don't forget the table at home. This is bringing women into the game. There was a time when respectable women weren't seen in bowling alleys. That's changed. And the same change is coming in billiards."

College women especially are picking up the game. Oregon State won the Intercollegiate Coed Pocket Billiards tourney in 1954. Oregon placed second and Purdue university third.

In individual scores there was a first place tie between Jackie Slusher of OSC and Lee McGary of Oregon. Other members on the 1954 Oregon team were Naomi Brooks and Martha Hainling.

Peterson is a fountain of lore concerning billiards. He was acquainted with all the greats of the past and is also somewhat of a historian on the subject.

Odd-shaped Tables Used

"Not many people know that in 1680 King Henry III of France played on a triangle table and that in the 17th century the Chinese were playing billiards on a round table with a single pocket."

Peterson owns an oval table and used to take it on tour. He had it constructed to prove to doubting sportswriters (a peculiarly cynical and grudging lot) that there were such things as angles on an oval table.

Unlike Willie Hoppe, Peterson didn't learn the game while still in diapers. The story unfolds in Milwaukee, Wis., in 1893, when a 15-year old, tired of school and looking for work, got a job running an elevator in a downtown hotel.

Eventually he was promoted to watching the billiards room (but was forbidden to play.) But he practiced on the side and one day dared to take on a travelling salesman.

He beat the salesman 50 games, won five dollars in gold, and, when the story got around, he was sure the boss would fire him.

So he spent most of the night cleaning the room and polishing the furniture. The next morning the boss walked into the room, uttered three words, "You play pool!" and that was the start of a great career.

Accident Curbs Activity

Peterson rapidly became known as "The Boy Wonder" and began sweeping championships in the Northeast. In 1898 he served in the Spanish-American war. He continued to win championships after that until an automobile accident in 1910 forced him to retire from active competition.

So he took up trick shots instead and now totals some 550 fancy shots in his repertoire. He has won the world's fancy shot, balk-line, and red ball championships.

He also holds the world's record high run for cushion caroms, 104, plus the world's record for the longest red ball run, 54.

Peterson has owned clubs in New York (with Willie Hoppe) and in St. Louis. It was in his St. Louis club in 1928 that he ran 421 billiards in 47 minutes—the longest run of his life.

Incredible as it sounds, he did this on his 50th birthday, after having said for years that he would "be able to play as well at 50 as at any other time in my life."

Air Exhibition Cited

Peterson has given exhibitions all over the world and for many famous people. In World War II he appeared at more service camps than any other entertainer. He has even displayed his cue artistry aboard airplanes.

He particularly remembers one exhibition at the Dartmouth university faculty club.

"I wanted to make a masse shot (where the ball is struck from above)," he says, "but the very low ceiling prevented me from doing it. So while my back was turned a student named Whitey Fuller (who had something to do with sports writing) cut off the end of my cue."

"It was now possible to make the masse shot. Since then a short cue has been known as a 'Dartmouth cue.'"

Despite Whitey Fuller, Peterson is a great friend of sports writers. Not long ago he was able to furnish an inquiring publicity map with the names of 124 sports editors with whom he was personally acquainted.

Although born in Milwaukee, Peterson makes his home in once sunny but now smoggy Los Angeles.

Portland State Battles Duck Matmen to Tie

Oregon and Portland State college wrestled to a 18-18 deadlock Wednesday night in Mac court. Although the Ducks captured an early 13-5 lead Darrell Farr of the Vikings scored a pin in the second round over Dick Barker of the Ducks to tie the score.

The Ducks scored first when Roy Schlessler toppled Paul Bailey to the mat in 1:10 of the second round. The Vikings countered with a win when Larry Schlessler of Portland—Roy's older brother—slammed Oregon's Darrell Klampe to the mat in the waning seconds of the first round.

In the 137 lb. class Bob Williams of the Ducks fought down to the wire to pin Dick DeChaine of the Vikings in 2:08 of the third round. Williams went ahead in the first round when he took down DeChaine in 2:00 of the first round.

Four Victories Mark Bowling

Four clear-cut victories marked intramural bowling action Wednesday night at the Student Union alleys. Winning were Alpha Tau Omega, Sigma Alpha Mu, Phi Kappa Sigma and Gamma hall.

Shutouts were recorded by Gamma and the Phi Kaps, 4-0, in matches with Sigma Phi Epsilon and Sigma Chi. The ATO's won a 3-1 decision from Hale Kane and the Sammys took Alpha hall 3-1.

High game for the night was bowled by Bryce Reimer of the ATO's with 238. Reimer also turned in the high series with 583.

Pins knocked down were ATO's over Hale Kane, 2498-2325; SAM over Alpha hall, 1902-1787; Phi Kappa Sigma over Sigma Chi, 2140-2003 and Gamma hall 2232, Sigma Phi Epsilon 2195.

DiMaggio Elected Into Hall of Fame

NEW YORK (AP)—Joe DiMaggio led a four-man ticket into baseball's hall of fame Wednesday as the 10-year members of the Baseball Writers association elected the former New York Yankee clipper, Ted Lyons, Dazzy Vance and Gabby Hartnett to membership.

Vance and Lyons, two of the great righthanded pitchers of the 1920s and 1930s, Hartnett, a former standout catcher with the Chicago Cubs, and DiMaggio will be inducted formally at the Cooperstown, N.Y., museum, July 25. Their election increased the membership to 77 men.

The four men breezed home with room to spare under the rules that required mention on three-fourths (189) of the 251 ballots for election.

IM Schedule

Thursday

Basketball

3:50 Alpha Tau Omega A vs. Sigma Chi A, court 40.

Theta Chi A vs. Phi Delta Theta A, court 43.

4:35 Sigma Nu A vs. Delta Upsilon A, court 40.

Phi Gamma Delta A vs. Tau Kappa Epsilon A, court 43.

5:15 Phi Sigma Kappa A vs. Kappa Sigma A, court 40.

Sigma Alpha Epsilon A vs. Chi Psi A, court 43.

Handball

4:00 Theta Chi vs. Phi Sigma Kappa, courts 42, 44, 46.

Oregon's Dave Newland took his fourth win of the season when he decisioned Harvey Cooper 6-3. As usual, Newland's speed and strength was too much for his opponents. At this point in the meet the Ducks held a 13-5 lead.

In the 157 lb. division, Roland Wilson was decisioned by a 6-4 mark by Jack McElroy of the Vikings. In the late minutes of the third round the match was deadlocked at 4-all, but McElroy switched his position to tally the winning points.

In the 167 lb. group Oregon

forfeited to Portland State five points to knot the score, 13-13.

Ken Kesey of the Ducks pinned Don Turner of the Vikings in 2:00 of the second round to cinch at least a tie for the Oregons. Kesey went ahead in the first round by a 2-0 margin but then Turner switched his position in the second round. Kesey ran out from under him and then toppled Turner to the mat with a key-lock for a fall.

In the final match of the evening Darrell Farr of PSC out-bounded Dick Barker of the Ducks and then flattened him to the mat in 1:07 of the second round to tie the match at 18-18.

Legislators Plan Fishing Derby Ban

SALEM (AP)—Fishing derbies in Oregon would be outlawed by a bill to be introduced in the state legislature by Reps. Robert L. Elfstrom, Salem, and John P. Amacher, Winchester.

Elfstrom said that fishing derbies encourage wasteful fishing practices, and that state fish and game officials don't like them.

"The big prizes offered by communities, resorts or businesses for the biggest fish caught, or the largest amount caught, amount to commercialism, not sportsmanship," Elfstrom said.

Elfstrom added that derbies are a big force in overtaxing the fishing resources.

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