

EMERALD SPORTS

Conservative and Dull

UO 'Hustler' Wins Second Pool Title

By LYNN MUCKEN
Sports Writer

Ken Johnson doesn't look at all like Paul Newman, and what's worse, despite ideals and theories hatched and nurtured by several showings of The Hustler, a pool game is about as exciting as Saturday night in Maupin, Ore.

Johnson was the University representative in the Regional Pocket Billiards tournament last weekend and for the second year in a row he mowed down his competition with apparent ease on his way to the title.

The tournament is a double-elimination affair, and the fact that by Saturday morning Johnson was playing in the consolation finals didn't destroy the opinion of most observers that Ken was the class of the tourney.

Loses Friday Night

Johnson had been beaten Friday night by Brian Lucarelli, a dapperly dressed Washington State student. The loss was only by 75-70, an extremely close game in pool. (Pool scores are often erratic. For example: although Johnson beat Ed Kam two games out of three for the University title, the one game he lost was by a 70 point margin.)

The 22-year-old sociology major began Saturday by easily dispatching David Connelly of Eastern Montana, 75-34. Neither player shot particularly well, but Johnson was in control for the entire game. A run of 21 balls midway through the match sewed up the easy victory and a berth in the finals.

Against Lucarelli Saturday, Johnson faced the task of winning two straight for the title.

It was obvious from the beginning that Ken didn't have a chance. Lucarelli was good-looking. Nobody would pick Johnson out in a crowd. Lucarelli was nicely dressed in a sports coat. Johnson was clad in a rather baggy shirt and pants.

Minnesota Fast

Lucarelli was friendly and talkative as he moved around the table. Johnson was quiet and obviously moody. But most of all, Lucarelli just dripped of the character that Minnesota Fats kept telling Fast Eddie about. Johnson didn't have a prayer.

He won anyway. In the first game Johnson overcame Lucarelli's early lead, and posted a fairly standard 75-62 victory to set up the final match.

Or rather mismatch. "He just outshot me today, that's all," was Lucarelli's only remark after Johnson had led, 24-0, 32-4, and 71-23 on the way to a 75-39 victory.

Johnson was a little more talkative, especially about his chances of going to the national tournament. "I've got a good chance to go since I won last year, too," he said, "although I did have a couple of bad games that hurt my average." Average and level of competition are the best basis on which the participants in the national tournament are chosen.

"Never Gave Up"

"That guy never gave up," said Johnson in reference to Lucarelli. "You have a guy down 70-25 and he runs a rack on you. He's not

supposed to do that.

"But don't get me wrong," he finally added, "there's about a half dozen guys in this town . . . two that I know of for sure, that can beat me."

The surprising fact of the tournament was the dullness of pool as a spectator sport. Instead of seeing spectacular combination shots, you're amazed at how many easy shots are actually muffed.

Instead of taking a chance on a shot, and hoping for a long run, the tourney player seemed content to call a "safe," and leave his opponent with a poor shot also.

The only halfway-exciting shot in Saturday's action was made by Johnson near the end of the finals, when he already had the championship salted away.

This does not mean to fault the ability of the players. They were good, no doubt about it. They were interested in winning, however, which makes for safe, conservative, and dull pool.

The desk man at the SU recreation desk described it perfectly when he said, "If you watched these games steadily for a week, you might see one spectacular shot."

Paul Newman, you have deceived us.

IM Schedule

Basketball

3:50—Court 40, Ganoe A vs. Thornton A.
Court 43, Spiller A vs. Henderson A.

4:35—Court 40, Hawaiians A vs. Sociology A.
Court 43, Deady A vs. Psychology A.

5:15—Court 40, Phi Delta Theta A vs. Chi Psi A.
Court 43, Phi Kappa Psi A vs. Alpha Tau Omega A.

Handball

4:00—Legal Eagles-Parsons winner vs. Theta Chi-Campus Crusade winner.

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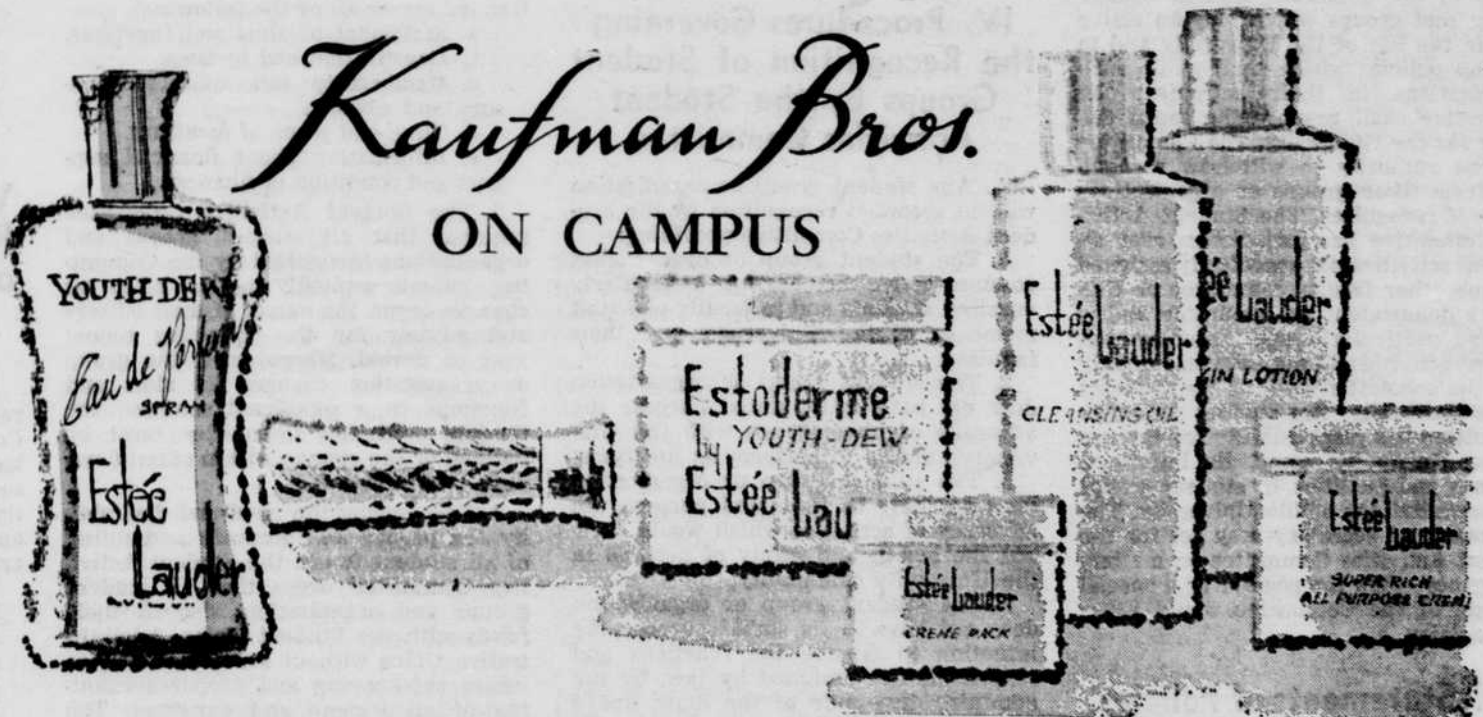
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Ski Quacks Plan Hoodoo Bowl Trip

Ski Quacks will hold a sign-up for those members participating in the Hoodoo Ski Bowl ski fling this weekend, at 7 p.m., Wednesday in the Student Union.

A \$2 deposit is required.

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