

Artificial turf--an Autzen reality

By JOYCE ROUTSON
Of The Emerald

Some type of artificial turf will be a reality for Autzen Stadium this fall.

According to Norv Ritchey, Oregon acting athletic director, the football field at Autzen, pending approval by the Oregon State Board of Higher Education, will be covered with one of three types of artificial turf.

Co-operating on a joint bid with Oregon will be Oregon State University, which also plans to install artificial turf.

The \$300,000 project, including installation of turf and lighting, will be ready for the first football game in September. Installation will begin June 2.

Oregon will co-operate with Eugene School District No. 4 on the project. This will give Eugene high schools usage of the stadium on Friday and Saturday nights for home games.

District pays \$100,000

School District No. 4 is paying \$100,000 of the total cost, or \$2,500 per high school per year over a 10-year period.

Other financing of the project will be by private contributions. Pete Murphy of Eugene is heading the fund-raising drive.

Artificial turf was decided upon by the athletic department mainly because of the heavy rainfall that makes sod muddy and unusable for practice. During the 1968 football season alone Eugene had 15.5 inches of rain.

Other reasons, according to Ritchey, include fewer injuries of the artificial turf and ability to use the field to maximum capacity.

Five more games

"Our use of Autzen field will jump from five games per year to over 60," stated Ritchey. He also said there's really no limit to the amount of use. We could use it 24 hours a day.

Ritchey also speculated that PE practice fields may be covered with artificial turf in the future. "Artificial turf completely opens up the possibilities," he said.



ASTROTURF AT UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON
A yellow field with green stripes?

There are three types of turf under consideration, according to Ritchey. They include AstroTurf, by Monsanto, Tartan Turf by 3M, and Poly Turf by Biltrite.

AstroTurf features grasslike turfs of nylon knitted to a polyester backing and has foamed plastic beneath. Developed in 1964, it is currently in use at the Astro Dome in Houston and

the Seattle Municipal Stadium. Tartan Turf has a deep pile surface more like a rug than grass and a half-inch polymer shock-absorbing mat. Tartan turf is poured onto an asphalt surface. It was installed at the Universities of Wisconsin, and Tennessee last year.

Poly Turf is similar to AstroTurf and installed to asphalt by layering.

Tests will be administered to each of the samples before deciding, remarked Ritchey. The benefits of artificial turf

have been widely argued. According to a Monsanto report, teams playing on sod suffered 9.6 knee and ankle injuries per year, while cleatless teams playing on AstroTurf reported an average of 1.6.

On the other hand, there have been complaints about the hard and unyielding surface and skid burns and abrasions on synthetic grass.

However, there are no conclusive, objective studies available yet, since artificial turf is a relatively new product.

Can be repaired

Ritchey gave a few more facts about the turf:

- Both types of turf can be taken up and repaired.
- The lifetimes of phony turf is as yet unknown but Ritchey estimates, with constant use, a life of 15 to 20 years.
- There are many decorative

possibilities with artificial turf. One includes a contrasting color border. "We could even have a yellow field with green stripes!" said Ritchey.

He said artificial turf is also being planned for Portland Civic Stadium thus making Oregon the only state in the nation with three synthetic fields.

Ritchey said he talked to Oregon State representatives Thursday regarding the turf specifications. Plans will be completed May 1 and construction begun June 2.

Oregon rugger loses

University of British Columbia rugger defeated Oregon's first team 17-9 Tuesday on the football practice field.

UBC also won the second team match 9-5.

Outdoor program

TODAY

Skiing—leave room 23 at 9:30 a.m. for Hoodoo

Climbing instruction—Check in rm. 23

SATURDAY

Skiing—leave room 23 at 6:30 a.m. for Hoodoo

Climbing instruction—leave room 23 at 9 a.m. for Coburg Caves

SUNDAY

Beach hike—leave room 23 at 7:45 a.m. for Florence and two-mile hike over the dunes to the ocean.

Ski touring—leave room 23 at 7:45 a.m. for a six to 12-mile tour to Fairview Lookout

Archery—recreational shooting 2 to 6 p.m.

MONDAY

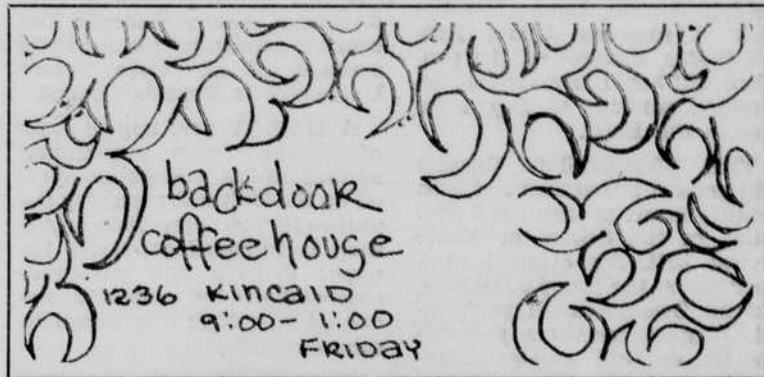
First aid class—room 23, 7 p.m.

FUTURE

Crater Lake—ski tour around rim, Feb. 28—Mar. 2

Skin-diving—California, sometime this term

Tetons—skiing and climbing during spring break



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1	41R	Reg. 125.00	Now	60.00
3	42R	Reg. 125.00	Now	60.00
1	42R	Reg. 135.00	Now	60.00
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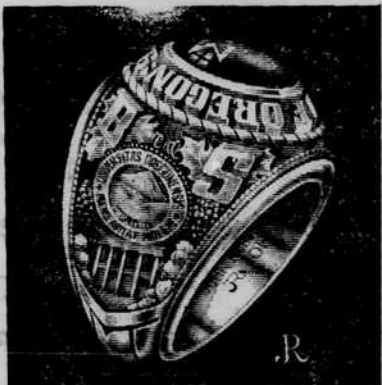
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