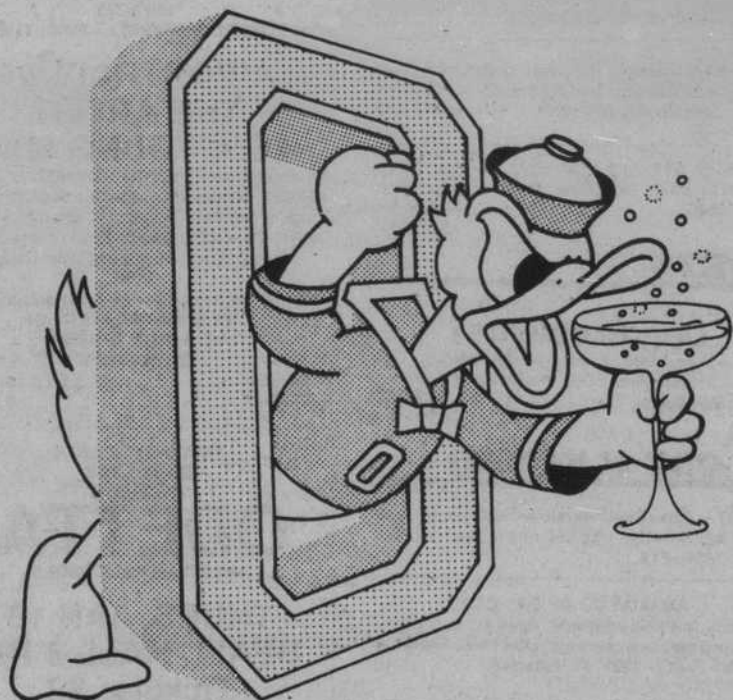




Oregon Club provides Duck's financial support

By JIM ALLEN
Of the Emerald

On almost every Monday during the school year, more than a hundred athletic fans of the University gather at the Eugene Hotel for a hearty buffet lunch and a rousing chorus of the Oregon fight song. The lunch time conversation revolves around one subject: athletics.

"Didn't the Ducks look good against Athletes in Action?" said one staunch Oregon alumnus at a recent meeting. "Too bad that last shot didn't go in."

Others at the rows of tables discussed a variety of topics: wrestling, gymnastics, field hockey and, still, Oregon football.

These men and women, more than 850 in all, represent the Oregon Club, the University's largest alumni fund-raising group. The Eugene group is the largest, but chapters also thrive in Portland, Coos Bay, Bend, Salem and Cottage Grove.

"We are a very major supporter of the athletic department," says Donn Thomas, the Oregon Club's new president. "The membership is composed simply of people who are interested in sports."

The club's activities begin each year before the first varsity football game with a "Fall Kickoff Dinner." Described by Thomas as a "fun gathering," the dinner features the entire football team, coaches and staff. Later in the season, the Oregon Club sponsors a senior banquet for departing members of the team.

The Oregon Club was organized at the University in 1946 by a group of Eugene businessmen, and even today is made up of primarily local merchants, lawyers and doctors. However, Thomas stresses the open nature of the group.

"Our group is totally open to the public; anyone can join," he says. "We are bonded together by our interest in and support of the University of Oregon Athletic Department, and, in fact, several members are alums of Oregon State University and the University of Washington."

But the organization is still a private one, Thomas says. "There is no pressure from the University to raise funds, but we still have to raise more money all the time to keep up with the rising costs of maintaining a quality athletic program at the University."

The Oregon Club kept pace with those rising costs last year when the group raised more than \$40,000 in its "Big Green Auction," an annual event which takes place in March at the Rodeway Inn. The items up for bidding at the 1978 auction ranged from a raft trip down the McKenzie River with Greg Ballard and Kenny King to a framed, hand-painted "Oregon Fighting Duck."

Women hope to stay unbeaten Somewhere over the Rainbows

The women's basketball team plays Hawaii, a team that seems to be a mystery to Oregon coach Elwin Heiny, tonight at 7:30 at McArthur Court.

"I think we can go out and adjust during the game," Heiny says.

Hawaii is 6-2 in counting games and 6-4 overall this year. The Rainbows have defeated Linfield twice, Okanogan College of British Columbia twice and Milliken University twice while on the mainland. Defeats have come at the hands of Utah State and an Australian club team (twice each).

The Rainbows will probably be

the shortest team the Ducks face all year. Their tallest player is 6-1 sophomore Renee McKnight, who is also the team's leading scorer and rebounder, averaging 14 points and 16 rebounds per game.

Hawaii also has two guards, Sandi Markarian and Mary Kay Simpson, who average better than 11 points per game.

The Ducks had a little trouble getting prepared for Boise State, 0-9, after beating undefeated Washington State last weekend. Will Oregon look past Hawaii to the Oregon State game to be

played Friday in Corvallis?

"Even though the game wasn't that exciting because it was lopsided, they got up and did their jobs," Heiny says. "We'll just have to go out and play our game and try to do a good job at it."

Oregon is 10-0 on the season, 4-0 in Northwest Women's Basketball League play and remains the only undefeated team in the league.

Admission will be charged for the game — \$2 for adults, \$1 for students and 50 cents for University students with identification.

Steel City now a winning city

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Super Bowl XIII may take the twirl out of Pittsburgh's "Terrible Towels."

But national titles have already made this a decade of sports success in a city that once survived the '52 Pirates, threw snowballs at the Same Old Steelers and loved and lamented other losers.

"Once we were at the bottom. Now, Pittsburgh is something special," said Bob Bubanic, 41, who has gone to every Pittsburgh Steelers' home game since 1971 — wearing a gorilla suit.

"We're at the zenith. It's the greatest," said John Halas, 45, bound for the Super Bowl with fellow members of the tavern-based Chiodo's Football Club.

"We'll get those 'Terrible Towels' going in Miami," Halas added, referring to the thousands of yellow, terry cloth towels that signalled Steelers' support in the playoffs.

If Dallas wins in Miami, it will be the first time in this decade that a Pittsburgh team has made it to the big one — and lost.

In 1971, the Pirates won the World Series. In 1974 and 1975, the Steelers took Super Bowls. In 1976 the University of Pittsburgh was No. 1 in college football.

"We don't have pro basketball, but our hockey team is coming," Halas said.

"Maybe we'll get a Stanley Cup," said Bubanic, who wears his gorilla suit as a member of "Gerela's Gorillas" fan club for Steelers kicker Roy Gerela.

Why the Pittsburgh success? Maybe it was just the timing of talented people coming together in a town where winning was overdue.

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