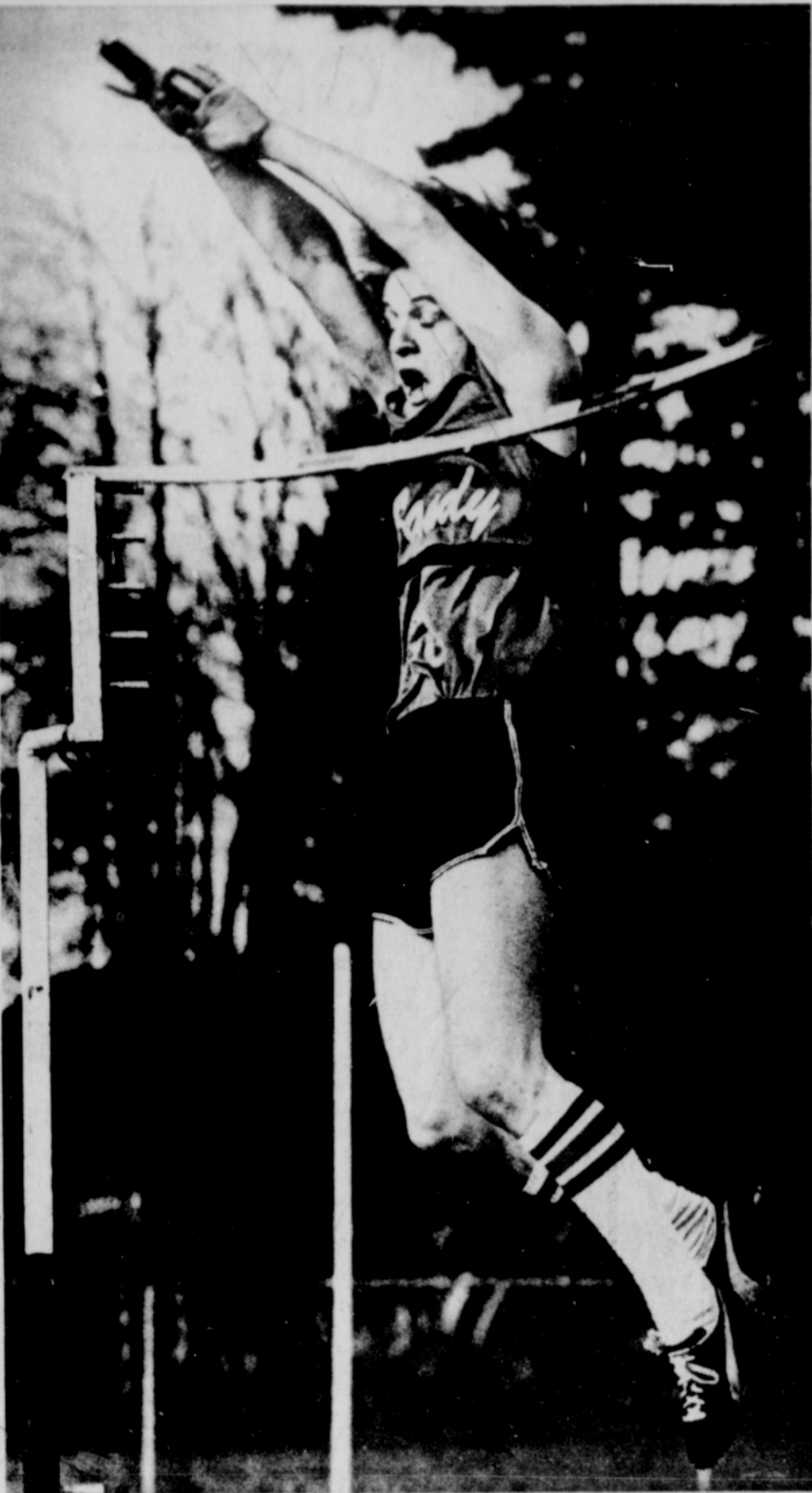




Chin to spare

KEVIN LIEDER tucks his chin in as he just clears 11'6" during the pole vault at last Thursday's track meet. Lieder won

the event with this jump, while teammate Bill Blackford came in second with an 11' jump.

Fish and Wildlife News

Elk season modification pondered

by Ken Durbin

The state of Oregon has reached a dilemma in regulating bull elk hunting. There has been a steady increase in hunter numbers, causing a decrease in hunter success, and some people feel the acceptable balance between hunter numbers and bulls available for harvest was reached sometime during the 1960s.

In 1977 some 113,000 elk hunters had a success rate of about 10 per cent. In some units most of the available bulls are taken each year and the harvest depends primarily on spikes. There is little opportunity to increase elk numbers in eastern Oregon under present land uses and most ranges are at or near their carrying capacity for elk.

In western Oregon elk distribution can be improved to some degree by trapping and transplanting but total numbers cannot be increased indefinitely.

Some elk hunters are demanding action to reduce opening weekend hunter congestion, attain more mature bulls in the herds and distribute hunters more evenly within management units. At the same time other groups resent any more restrictions and believe that supply and demand will resolve the crowding. Landowners bothered by elk want more elk harvested.

Those are a few of the facts. The Fish and Wildlife Commission is going to be taking a very hard look at elk management in the weeks between now and final setting of the 1978 big game hunting regulations on May 27.

Before then the Commission will conduct two public meetings in Portland and nine town hall meetings in cities around the state. A schedule of those meeting times and places will be available in the near future.

It is very likely there will be significant changes in elk management in the next few years and participation of interested hunters or their lack of participation at public meetings will undoubtedly have a strong

bearing on what form these management changes will take.

Hunters have already seen changes in recent years that have meant restrictions in one form or another on elk hunting in Oregon. Each of the changes has been an attempt to limit or spread out elk hunting pressure.

Not so many years ago separate tags were established for Rocky Mountain and Roosevelt elk. This reduced hunting pressure by making a hunter pick eastern or western Oregon and permitted staggered opening dates for two areas.

Two years ago the season for antlerless elk was separated from the general bull season and those with controlled elk permits were not allowed to hunt in the general bull season. This measure reduced the number of bull hunters by from 7,000 to 9,000.

A separate tag for elk bowhunters was set up so a hunter was required to choose between rifle hunting or bowhunting, not both. This eased pressure during late-season bowhunts but caused about 15,000 people to give up bowhunting for rifle hunting.

Last year several areas were set up for taking only three-point bulls or larger. This regulation increases the chance to take a three to five-point bull after the first year, but it significantly reduced the number of bulls available for harvest. The illegal kill of spike bulls may be a serious problem with this regulation. Generally, carrying more bulls for an extra year means carrying fewer cows for the same amount of forage.

Two units were established last year for limited entry bull hunting. The Chesnimnus and Sled Springs units were restricted to 2,500 and 3,500 permits respectively. There was opposition from local hunters unable to obtain a permit to hunt in their own area and the overflow of hunters went to other units, causing increased hunting pressure there.

A shorter bull season has been tried in recent years which increases bull survival somewhat, but crowds hunters into a shorter period of time, aggravating congestion problems. Staggered closing dates where hunting in units with low bull numbers ended early increased bull survival in those units, but it increased hunting pressure in some of the units that remained open.

Those are a few steps that have been tried in recent years. Now let's look at what might be done to further relieve hunting pressure and permit greater bull escapement. These are options that have been suggested. You may have other and the Commission would like to know about them.

—One option is more limited entry bull units. This, as with Chesnimnus and Sled Springs units last year, would resolve congestion in the units affected but might put more pressure on unrestricted units. Permits would probably be issued on a first come, first served basis.

—Another possibility would be limited entry for bull hunting in all units. This way hunter numbers could be controlled to provide the hunting experience and bull escapement desired. But it would mean only about half the number of the hunters presently hunting elk would be accommodated each year. If more hunters began to apply, this might be curtailed to once every three years.

—A split season consisting of three days controlled bull season, then a four-day closure, followed by a longer general bull season in all elk units. Hunter numbers would be limited in the first part of the hunt and selected

through a drawing.

A hunter successful in the drawing for the first period would not be permitted to hunt in the second period and there would probably be a one-year waiting period for the first hunt people before they could apply again.

Obviously, success would be highest for the first group but the system would prevent the severe opening weekend crowding that occurs now and anyone who wanted would be able to participate in the second, longer hunt. Hunters could retain their choice of hunting area.

—Conduct the cow season first. This would alert and scatter the bulls before the bull season and help solve the problem of hunters congregating around known herd locations opening morning. This would also likely mean a higher success rate on the antlerless animals and thus fewer antlerless permits could be issued.

Another possibility is a split bull season (first three days or last 12 days). The hunter would select the period when he purchased a tag. Under such a system hunters could plan their hunt early because they would not have to wait for a drawing. Perhaps only the late period tag holders would be able to apply for antlerless hunts.

A three-point bull regulation in all units would undoubtedly cut down on hunter numbers the first year but pressure would begin to climb again as herds contained more branch-antlered bulls. Again, fewer cows could be carried through the winter on a given amount of forage in order to accommodate carrying more bulls. Past experience with three-point regulations has also shown illegal kill of spikes to be a problem. Hunter success would decline significantly.

Another possibility, of course, is to continue with present regulations. Bull hunters will continue to increase, cow hunts would continue as needed, and hunters could go where they desired. Hunter success and the hunting experience would continue to decline.

These are a few that have been suggested and that the Commission is weighing. The Commission would very much like to hear how the hunting public feels about these options or about other options that have not been listed. Those who are unable to attend one of the hearings or town hall meetings are invited to send written comments to the Fish and Wildlife Department, P. O. Box 3503, Portland, Ore. 97208.

Boys tennis team downed by Barlow Bruins

Early season jitters again plagued Sandy High's varsity boys tennis team as they lost to Barlow last Thursday, 6-2.

But the boys, with just one other meet to their credit, are beginning to show they can be competitive.

"They showed a lot of improvement," said coach Cheryl Proett. "They were

Hook 'n' Sinker

Where the wily steelhead?

by Dennis Luse

Steelheading has slowed down on the local tributaries due to warm weather and low water levels. The winter run has peaked out and we are on the downhill side as far as the numbers and brightness of fish.

There are still a few anglers scoring, but the ratio of fish to fisherman has decreased drastically. A few summer fish have been showing up giving an indication we might be in for a good summer run.

Salmon fishing on the Willamette and lower Columbia has picked up. The fish are running larger, indicating they have made it up this far since the nets came out on March 8. The fishing should improve through the rest of the month, water conditions permitting. Troiled herring or wobblers have been giving the best action.

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A fisherman who approaches a stream with various pools, eddies, slicks and rapids has a decision to make: where are the fish likely to be laying? The difference in stopping by the market or putting his own catches in the freezer is largely dependent on his ability to read the stream. The time of year, the water temperature, and the water levels have a direct bearing as to which portion of water fish may be.

In the early months of a fish run, the majority of the fish will be in the headwaters

more relaxed and more confident."

But what they needed were more points.

In the first singles game, Ken Roberts consistently forced his opponent to deuce, then let him slip away as he lost in straight sets, 6-0, 6-0.

"He doesn't have the finesse yet to know what to

do (at deuce)," Proett said, "but he's looking better."

Second single Damien Bollerman experienced similar difficulties as he was beaten 6-1, 6-1. But Bollerman, a freshman, is going against people with two and three more years of experience.

"Damien is real consistent, but he's tightening up

at the matches," said his coach. "He's not stroking through at all."

In doubles play the Pioneers top duo of D.J. Spraggel-Lee Funk played together for the first time, losing just 6-4 to a Bruin duo in the first, then dropping the second set 6-1.

The second doubles pair of Steve Frost and Jim Pearson

lost their first set 6-1 and were behind 4-0 in the second when they staged a sudden rally to tie the game at six all before losing the tiebreaker.

It's been tough sledding thus far for the Sandy netters, all of whom are in their first year of high school competition.

"More confidence, that's the main thing," said Proett. "As soon as they get that first win they'll get going."

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