

The Boss Bass

Intimidated by a bass? We're talking about Bud, an Oregon logger. A guy that straps on cork boots, throws a 32-inch Stihl over his shoulder, heads up mountains--that would give Lindsey Vonn pause--and falls giant firs to make a living.



On the Wild Side

by G.I. Wilson

Intimidated by a three pound bass? Really?

One of Bud's responsibilities is five cows and their 500-gallon water tank. A float keeps the water level consistent. Mosquitos discover the pond and lay eggs. Hundreds of larvae are soon flitting around the tank.

Bud comes up with a solution, fish to eat the larvae. He sneaks into a neighborhood pond and commanders a couple of small bluegill.

Too many larvae for two puny bluegill. He needs more fish power. Back to the pond. Lucky catch. A three pound bass. Larvae soon disappear.

Bud is feeling pretty good about solving the tank problem. He comes out one morning and the half-eaten body of a bluegill is floating on the surface. Two days later, same with the other one. Boss Bass is eating the bluegill.

A few days later, a rain storm flushes a starling nest down the rain gutter into the tank.

This has happened before. Bud usually dips out the debris with his hands.

On the second dip something grabs his finger, jerks his hand down all the way to the elbow. His shriek of pain brings Lucy,

the dog barking in fear. Bud's mangled finger is bleeding. The bass chewed up a work-hardened finger. Bud thinks it has to be a freak incident. Another bleeding finger.

Hunger. The bass must be hungry with the larvae gone. Feed the bass. Bud sifts through the compost pile and comes up with a dozen fat nightcrawlers. Night crawlers are snapped up as fast as they are dangled in the water.

Boss Bass has to be full. Finger three is now bleeding. Over the next few days Coy, Bud's significant other, is amused as she watches her tough, logger guy approach the tank cautiously, dangle a crawler in the water, then jump back. He admits, he is totally intimidated by a three pound bass, confined in a steel tank.

It's one of those days when the stars and planets are aligned. Bud and Coy have garden work to do. Bud shovels compost into the wheelbarrow, systematically selecting fat crawlers for Boss Bass.

Coy carefully wheels the compost past the water tank, weaving her way through cow pies deposited by cows coming for a drink.

Old bossy--right out of a Chick-fil-A commercial--comes

for a drink, just as she does ever day at this time.

She lowers her muzzle into the cool water, licking her lips in anticipation.

Suddenly, she rears up on her haunches, lets out a bellow that would make a raging bull proud. Boss Bass has latched onto her tongue.

Now, it gets exciting. She does a half flip, with a minus one rating, launching Boss Bass ten feet in the air. Nine hundred pounds of bovine comes crashing down on the nose of the wheelbarrow creating a fulcrum, catapulting Coy--and load of compost--into the air.

Bud is in awe of the scene before him. Does he rush to Coy's aide, or save Boss Bass? Boss Bass is flopping wildly down the slope, barn cat Tommy, in hot pursuit. Coy has landed in a fresh cow pie, covered with two inches of thick, black compost, a couple of night crawlers dangling from her hair, describing Old Bossy's ancestors at a pitch beyond the threshold of pain.

It isn't as bad as he thought it would be, sleeping by himself out here in the old rusty camper behind the barn. Tommy, the barn cat, can be pretty good company. He seems to enjoy watching Bud jump when he eases a night-crawler into the tank.

ROAD,

continued from Page A10

pulled a double steal. Pujadas singled both home. Three singles provided the Emeralds' final run.

July 26: Hillsboro 4, Volcanoes 3

Salem-Keizer, visiting the division-leading Hops, got only two hits in the game but scored three runs in the eighth inning and threatened even after that.

The game was scoreless through the first seven innings. In the Hillsboro fifth, Alex Olmeda singled and Gerard Hernandez hit a home run. In the bottom of the sixth, Nathaniel Santiago relieved Volcano starter Logan Webb. With two out, Stephen Dezzi singled and Hernandez doubled, moving Dezzi to third. Nate Irving singled both home.

Junior Amion led off the Volcano eighth with a walk. Hillsboro starter Jared Miller, who became the winning pitcher with a 7-1 record, hit Julio Pena and Brad Moss

to load the bases. John Riley grounded out, scoring Amion, and Christian Lichtenthaler reached first base on an error that scored Pena. Steven Duggar singled Moss home.

Webb took the loss, running his record to 3-2.

Salem-Keizer's other hit was a single by Miguel Gomez in the fifth, running his hitting streak to 21 games.

July 27: Volcanoes 9, Hillsboro 2

The Volcanoes were in charge of this one all the way, scoring six runs in the first inning.

Everyone in the Salem-Keizer lineup had at least one hit except Steven Duggar, but he walked twice, scored twice and drove in a run. This meant a 22-game hitting streak for Miguel Gomez.

Starter Drew Leenhouts, going five innings, was the winning pitcher with a 5-2 record. Hillsboro starter Cody Reed was the losing pitcher, allowing seven runs, all earned, before being relieved in the second.

In the Volcano second, the six runs came on four singles,

two doubles, a walk and a sacrifice fly.

Gomez had three of Salem-Keizer's 13 hits. Ronnie Jebavy, Fernando Pujadas and Junior Amion had two each.

July 28: Hillsboro 10, Volcanoes 0

The host Hops took the rubber game of this series, also giving the Volcanoes a losing record for the trip.

It was also the end of Miguel Gomez's hitting streak, at 22 games. He came close in his last time at bat, with a line drive to deep right field, but Stephen Dezzi caught it to end the game.

For 6-1/2 innings, it was a contest. Hillsboro was ahead but only 2-0. In the bottom of the seventh, the Hops scored six runs on two singles, a double, an error, a sacrifice fly and a hit batsman.

Jordan Johnson, the newest Volcano, was the starting and losing pitcher with two runs, both earned, in 4-2/3 innings but six strikeouts. Carlos Hernandez was the winning pitcher, allowing only four hits and striking out seven in his seven innings.

Soccer camp begins Aug. 3

McNary soccer camp

The McNary High School soccer program is offering camps for girls and boys in all grades this summer.

Kindergarten through sixth grade camp is Aug. 3 through 6 from 6 to 7:15 p.m. Camp for students in grades seven through 12 will be Aug. 10-13 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Cost for all camps is \$50 and includes a T-shirt.

Registration forms are available at the McNary

main office.

Celtic volleyball camp

The annual Celtic volleyball camp is scheduled for Aug. 10 through 12.

Camp for beginner and intermediate players is 5:30 to 8 p.m. Cost is \$40 and includes a T-shirt. Camp for advanced players is 8 to 11 a.m. and continues from 1 to 3 p.m. Cost is \$50 per camper and includes a T-shirt.

Beginner and intermediate instruction focuses on

fundamentals such as sportsmanship and teamwork, passing technique, defensive and offensive skills, serving techniques, offensive and defensive systems and basic rules.

Advanced camp includes instruction in overhand skills, passing posture, blocking techniques, serving strategies, offensive and defensive systems, multiplayer training and drills, and tryout preparation.

Registration forms are available at the McNary main office.



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57											55			56			
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60											61			62			
63											64			65			

CREATORS NEWS SERVICE

By Charles Preston

ACROSS

- 1 Chocolate brown
- 6 French soldier's hat
- 10 Rich soil
- 14 Root used in perfumery
- 15 Pianist Templeton
- 16 Out of use
- 17 Likeness
- 18 A Rose
- 19 Equipment
- 20 Enosis father, *et al.*
- 21 %
- 22 Busy airport
- 23 Weight allowance
- 24 Forbearing
- 26 Pitcher part
- 28 Retaliated for
- 32 With hands on hips and elbows bent outward
- 35 Honshu bay
- 36 Winnie ___ Pu
- 37 Has a speech defect
- 38 Play part
- 39 Occupied
- 40 Expunge: abbr.
- 41 ___ *carte*
- 42 Director Bergman
- 43 A-bomb stockpiles

DOWN

- 1 Damp
- 2 Abalone
- 3 Container for oranges
- 4 Summer feature
- 5 Enzyme suffixes
- 6 Greek letter
- 7 Summer event
- 8 Most small-minded
- 9 Bartender's need
- 10 Feature of 7 Down
- 11 Music halls
- 12 Winged

- 13 Henri's mother
- 22 Single
- 24 Con's opposite
- 25 First wife
- 27 Summary: abbr.
- 29 Morose
- 30 Lohengrin's love
- 31 Forest ruminants
- 32 Assassinated Italian premier Moro
- 33 Ukrainian city
- 34 Man or Wight
- 38 Averse to
- 39 Chemical ending
- 41 River islet
- 42 Tax agcy.
- 44 Chess pcs.
- 47 Taut
- 49 Church instrument
- 50 Hesitation
- 51 Atlas feature
- 52 What the shuttle carries
- 53 Maple genus
- 54 Herr's spouse
- 56 Border on
- 58 Hebrew king

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