

# Highclimber

By DICK STRITE

Hobby Hobson was plenty smart when he arranged the Webfoots' current eastern basketball invasion—by booking a flock of good opponents, including five sophomores on the traveling squad, and returning home more than two weeks before the opening of the northern division season.

This 1941-42 hoop race is going to be a "toughie" in the Pacific northwest, from all indications... Washington State isn't noticeably weakened by the loss of all regulars except Kirk Gebert... Idaho will be no pushover, pre-season games indicate... Washington admittedly has the strongest lineup in years... And Oregon State is the "team to beat," what with a veteran squad including the invincible John Mandic.

Coach Hec Edmundson of the Huskies and Slat Gill of the Beavers will not have the advantage of Hobson's crew in regard to the eastern jaunt.

Both Washington and Oregon State will entrain for the east this week-end when the Webfoots are homeward bound... Washington is to leave today and will likely return home only a few days before the opener in Seattle, January 9, against Idaho... Oregon State doesn't play Bradley Tech in Illinois until January 3, nine days before meeting Washington State.

And Oregon squad, regardless of wins and losses, is certain to gain the experience and poise needed in the coming conference race—and the necessary rest that former Oregon squads have not had before opening January 9 against USC.

The Pacific coast conference football coaches' association will present two new rule changes to the National Football Coaches' association which the national group holds its annual meeting in Detroit December 30—and the rules will be those Tex Oliver has been advocating these many years.

Neither of the proposed changes will be as radical as the "unlimited substitution" rule adopted with surprising success last season. Need for the new rules is "as plain as the nose on your face," is the way Tex puts it.

Change No. 1—That a penalty against a defensive team within its 15-yard line should never be more than half the distance to the goal line. An excellent example of this was the recent Oregon-OSC game when a penalty advanced the ball from the 24½ to the three-yard line, resulting in the conference champions' first touchdown. Under the proposed rule the ball would have gone to the 7½.

The three-yard line is much different than the 7½, if you've ever noticed how much more difficult it is to advance those last 10 yards than the same distance further out. The surprise of a penalty within "diving distance" wrecks the morale of a defender.

Change No. 2—That distance gained through forward passing or rushing be allowed after an illegal lateral pass. The present regulation sends the ball back to the line of scrimmage and nullifies all yardage gained on either a legal forward pass or a rushing advance. If adopted, the rule will give the team possession of the ball, minus the penalty, at the point from where the forward lateral was tossed and allow the passing or rushing gain.

Tex will attend the national meeting in Detroit and is scheduled to give a talk on "Defense Against the T..." The Oregonians played Clark Shaughnessy's "T-Formation Indians in the first game of the season, and while the Webfoots didn't perform exactly as Tex had planned, the club gave Stanford a terrific battle... No doubt Tex will gather material from Stub Allison of California, Edge Hollingbery of Washington State, and Lon Stiner of Oregon State—three coaches and three teams that did stop the "T."

If the new rules proposed by the coast coaches are accepted by the national association, a recommendation will be forwarded to the national rules committee, a group that is very, or has been very hesitant in setting up new regulations.

An open letter to—  
Chris Lykke,  
Publicity Director Annual Shrine Football Game,  
206 Civic Auditorium,  
San Francisco, Cal.  
Dear Mr. Lykke:

Curt Mecham, right halfback for the University of Oregon during the past gridiron season, has been tendered an invitation and refused the bid to play in the East-West football classic, pardone me all to hell.

But if he hasn't been asked to play in the "Player for Player, America's Greatest Football

Just Received  
**5**  
1942 MODEL  
**Johnson**  
Outboard  
Motors

We have been notified that no more will be available until further notice. These 5 are all popular sizes... It may be your last chance for a long time. See us Monday if you are planning to buy a motor in the near future.

Easy Terms Arranged  
**Carl R. Baker**  
FILM SHOP  
7th & Willamette

49 E. Broadway Ph. 809

# Henry Picard Leads Rio Grande Open Golf Tourney

## Pro-Golfers Undercut Par

Picard Snatches Early Lead From Ben Hogan

HARLINGEN, Tex., Dec. 20.—(AP)—Henry Picard ignored a driving rain today to rush home with a seven-under-par 31-33-64 in the first round of the Rio Grande Valley open golf tournament.

That was a stroke better than Toledo's Byron Nelson, who learned his golf in Texas and is former U. S. Open king.

The Harlingen course all but fell apart at the seams under the hammering of the touring pros, 25 of whom bettered par, which is 35-36.

Picard, Oklahoma City professional, pounded the soggy course for seven birdies and never went over par in the first day of the \$5,000 meeting. Nelson got as many birdies but his 32-33-65 included a bogie four at No. 5.

Lester Kennedy of Lynn, Mass., nosed out smiling Jimmy Demaret of Detroit for third place honors with a 32-34-66. Demaret, a Houston lad who was in the lead until the late hours of the round, fired a 33-34-67. Joe Zarhardt of Morristown, Pa., did just as well with a 32-35-67.

Picard closed like a champion to take over the lead from Nelson. He birdied No. 18.

The rain started while Nelson was on the fourth fairway, but he wobbled only on the fifth, where he wound up with the bogie. Picard, whose 31 was the lowest nine-hole score of the day, was five under through the 14th and clipped two more strokes off par, one on 16 and the other at No. 18.

Ben Hogan, winner of the Vardon trophy and the leading money winner of the year, was 26th in the standings with an even-par 71.

## McKee, CIO Quits To Battle Monday

SPRINGFIELD, Dec. 20.—(Special)—Local basketball fans will have the opportunity of watching a potentially fine basketball game and aid the Red Cross War Relief campaign at the same time here Monday night. The Lane county AAU basketball league game between the McKee Bakers of Springfield and the Springfield C.I.O. has been shifted to Monday night and will be played on the Springfield high court at 8 o'clock.

The McKee Bakers have won the state "B" division AAU championship for the past two years and are favored to annex the county crown this season. The C.I.O. aggregation, however, has title hopes and will be leveling all guns at the Bakers Monday night.

The Baker aggregation includes the Fox family (Howard, Kenny, Everett and Delano), Kenny and Palmer King, Lloyd Mallatt and Rex McCready.

C.I.O. will have Big Bob Folland at center, Del Koch at forward, Pete Taylor and Bill Smith, guards, all ex-Springfield high stars; Marsh Danner, former OSC Rookie, and three former Washington high school stars—the Dougherty brothers and Bob Biedel.

All expenses have been held to zero, the high school providing facilities and Doc Taylor donating his services as referee. The high school history class has taken charge of advance sale of tickets, costing 40 cents for adults and 25 cents for students, tax included.

Others figuring in the balloting were Bill Regner, end from Portland, 43 points; Morris Jackson, guard from Roaring Springs, Texas, 12 points, and Frank Boyd, halfback from Riverside, Cal., four points.

It was the third annual award, made by Vernon Hoffman of the Hoffman Jewelry store, a former University of Oregon swimmer star. Previous winners were "Lefty Bob" Smith, halfback from Medford, and Dick Horne, end from Long Beach, Cal., in 1939 and 1940, respectively.

Mecham came to Oregon in the spring of 1940, a transfer from Bakersfield junior college. In his first season, as an understudy for Len Isberg, a Portlander who was one of two married men on the 1940 team, Mecham was the leading ground-gainer on the Pacific coast. He carried the ball 37 times for the astounding average of 8.9 yards per play. Mecham, a south-paw kicker and passer, punted 21 times for a 37.5-yard average.

Although given only honorable mention on all-American teams and second-team berths on all-coast selections, the Oregon right halfback was one of the finest all-around backfield men in Pacific coast conference football history during the past year.

Best Coast Punter  
The Webfoot halfback blossomed

Smith First, Horne Second  
Others figuring in the balloting were Bill Regner, end from Portland, 43 points; Morris Jackson, guard from Roaring Springs, Texas, 12 points, and Frank Boyd, halfback from Riverside, Cal., four points.

Another high single game score was turned in by Hughes for the Planiers Peanuts team and Androinos for the Sigwart Electric team with a 227 and a 226 respectively. Both bowlers performed at the U-Bowl alleys. Riley of the Jim the Shoe Doctor team at the Recreation scored a 225.

Daisy Stutzer was the high performer of the week among the women bowlers. She scored a single game of 223 and a high series of 553 for the Scherer Bulck team at the Recreation alleys.

Give the Best!  
**SOCIETE'**  
CHOCOLATES  
XMAS BOXES  
from **60c**  
**ED'S DEPOT**  
49 E. Broadway Ph. 809

## BOB SMITH--1939

BOB SMITH was the first Hoffman Award winner. The ace right-halfback from Medford played for Oregon three years.



CURT MECHAM--1941

CURT MECHAM is the latest Hoffman Award winner. The great right-halfback from Glendale, Cal., completed two years for Oregon this season. (Teter photos, Wiltshire engraving)

## DICK HORNE--1940

DICK HORNE was the second Hoffman Award winner. The talented end from Long Beach, Cal., played two seasons for Oregon.

# Curt Mecham Wins Hoffman Football Award

## Duck Halfback Best on Coast

Curtis L. "Curly" Mecham, 21-year-old Bakersfield, Cal., halfback, has been named the 1941 Hoffman Football Award winner—the outstanding senior member of the University of Oregon squad during the past season. Mecham, the only married man on the 1941 Webfoot gridiron squad, was selected for this honor by his teammates who annually select the award winner—a 21-jewel Bulova wrist watch.

Thirty Oregon squad members took part in the voting and Mecham collected 19 first-place votes, eight second-place and one third-place selection for a total of 120 points (figured on a basis of five for first, three for second and one for third) out of a possible 145, taking for granted he did not vote for himself. Strongest contender was Ray Segale, three-year veteran guard from Seattle, who was given nine first-team votes and a total of 101 points.

Others figuring in the balloting were Bill Regner, end from Portland, 43 points; Morris Jackson, guard from Roaring Springs, Texas, 12 points, and Frank Boyd, halfback from Riverside, Cal., four points.

It was the third annual award, made by Vernon Hoffman of the Hoffman Jewelry store, a former University of Oregon swimmer star. Previous winners were "Lefty Bob" Smith, halfback from Medford, and Dick Horne, end from Long Beach, Cal., in 1939 and 1940, respectively.

Mecham came to Oregon in the spring of 1940, a transfer from Bakersfield junior college. In his first season, as an understudy for Len Isberg, a Portlander who was one of two married men on the 1940 team, Mecham was the leading ground-gainer on the Pacific coast. He carried the ball 37 times for the astounding average of 8.9 yards per play. Mecham, a south-paw kicker and passer, punted 21 times for a 37.5-yard average.

Although given only honorable mention on all-American teams and second-team berths on all-coast selections, the Oregon right halfback was one of the finest all-around backfield men in Pacific coast conference football history during the past year.

Best Coast Punter  
The Webfoot halfback blossomed

Smith First, Horne Second  
Others figuring in the balloting were Bill Regner, end from Portland, 43 points; Morris Jackson, guard from Roaring Springs, Texas, 12 points, and Frank Boyd, halfback from Riverside, Cal., four points.

Another high single game score was turned in by Hughes for the Planiers Peanuts team and Androinos for the Sigwart Electric team with a 227 and a 226 respectively. Both bowlers performed at the U-Bowl alleys. Riley of the Jim the Shoe Doctor team at the Recreation scored a 225.

Daisy Stutzer was the high performer of the week among the women bowlers. She scored a single game of 223 and a high series of 553 for the Scherer Bulck team at the Recreation alleys.

Give the Best!  
**SOCIETE'**  
CHOCOLATES  
XMAS BOXES  
from **60c**  
**ED'S DEPOT**  
49 E. Broadway Ph. 809

## Bud Ward Joins Army Air Corps

SPOKANE, Wash., Dec. 20.—(AP)—Marvin "Bud" Ward, national amateur golf champion, on Monday may become Private Marvin Ward, U. S. army.

While photographers' flash bulbs popped, the slender, blond performer of the nation's golfing wars today volunteered for service with the army air corps.

"I just thought it was the thing to do," Ward said.

out this season and statistics definitely establishing him as an outstanding performer. He won the Pacific coast punting championship by booting 60 times for an average of 41.1 yards per kick, and many of his punts were out of bounds or grounded for no return by opponents. He carried the ball 97 times for 525 yards rushing and a net average of 4.72 yards per play. He passed 36 times, completed 15 for 230 yards with only three interceptions and a 4.17 average on completions. He caught eight passes for 108 yards, scored seven touchdowns for 42 points and passed to several other touchdowns.

Mecham, besides being a fine offensive player, was a sterling performer on defense. He blocked well and did a good job of quarterbacking.

Tex Oliver, Mecham's coach, said, "I've never coached a better or more conscientious player. Curt played better football with a lame ankle than many good players could perform in top condition. As far as defensive ability is concerned, Curt was a fine tackler and opponents made few long gains in

## No Special Trains For Bowl Game Crowds

WASHINGTON, Dec. 20.—(AP)—The nation's railroads told bowl game managers today that because of war-time demands it was doubtful if special trains or cars could be provided to handle football crowds.

The advice was telegraphed by J. J. Pelley, president of the Association of American Railroads, to universities whose football teams are scheduled for bowl games.

his territory. The record of his many intercepted passes vouch for his pass defense. He is also a good blocker."

Mecham's performance during the past season was more remarkable in that he handled a managed job in addition to playing football. He and Mrs. Mecham managed the Alder Court apartments here in exchange for a furnished apartment and a small cash compensation. One of Curt's many duties was to build the furnace fire in the wee hours of the morning.

Married January, 1941  
The Bakersfield lad married Jerry Weaber at Las Vegas, Nev., January 2, 1941. Jerry, a very attractive blonde, was a schoolmate sweetheart at Bakersfield high.

The Mechams have returned to Bakersfield and are living at 1920 Roosevelt avenue. Curt plans to return to Oregon real soon to complete his college work for a degree in the school of physical education.

Voting tabulations follow:  
Curt Mecham 19 8 1 120  
Ray Segale 9 13 7 101  
Bill Regner 1 7 17 43  
Morris Jackson 1 1 4 12  
Frank Boyd 0 1 1 4  
Possible 50 29 145

## Uni High, Junction City Sked Vacation Games; Others Rest

All district six basketball teams except University high will lay off basketball during the Christmas vacation. Springfield, Eugene, Junction City and Cottage Grove will not see any more actual game action until January when the regular league season begins.

The campus five of Henry Ku-chera, however, will play two games during the vacation. Monday December 22 the "M" will entertain the Marshall quintet at McArthur court. December 23 the Tigers travel Albany for a return game with Bulldogs and then on December 30 they travel to Marshfield to return game.

District six league play will start on January 9 when Springfield entertains University high and Junction City travels to Cottage Grove. Eugene high does not see district action until January when the Axemen travel to Cottage Grove.

Eugene high's next game, however, will be against the Sal Vikings at Salem on January 10. Lane county B league teams will also desert the casaba sport on January 9 when they again resume full weekly schedules.

The Junction City Tigers will cut a few days off of each end of their vacation by playing a game with Independence December 20 on the Junction City floor. Then on January 2 and 3 they travel to tangle with Myrtle Point. Roseburg in a pair of games.

Coach Eldon Fix, Assistant Coach Paul Johnson and Captain Radmore gave short talks.

HEITZ  
MADE IN U.S.A. Support Our Stars  
**Russell's**  
MERCHANDISE BOND

Give a Russell's Merchandise Bond for the amount you want to spend and let her have the fun of making the selection.

SHIRTS TIES  
PAJAMAS ROBES  
SCARFS GLOVES  
SWEATERS SLACKS  
SPORT SHIRTS JACKETS  
BELTS SUSPENDERS  
HANDKFS SOX  
PANT HANGERS TIE RACKS

Men's **ROBERTSON'S** Wear  
Quality for Less  
832 Will. St. Eugene

**GIVE**  
War Relief Fund