

TRUCKIN'



Black Spartans (1907-1948)

Curators

Carli V. Lowe, University Archivist
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Artist

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Exhibit Curators Statement

"Black Spartans (1907-1948)" represents ongoing research in SJSU Special Collections & Archives identifying documentation of Black experiences throughout SJSU history. This exhibit is the first of several installments.

Much of the information we have comes from the Spartan Daily student newspaper and the La Torre yearbooks. With too few exceptions, Black Spartans' stories are not told in their own words but from the perspectives of their majority white classmates. This is reflected in the language and focus of the articles. We invite you to read critically.

The Black Spartans featured in this exhibit pursued their educational goals while contending with institutionalized racism and other major crises of the 20th century: two World Wars, the influenza pandemic of 1918, and polio. Locally, "the deed to virtually every home in San Jose" included restrictions against Black and Asian residents known as "restrictive covenants" (Spartan Daily, February 16, 1948, page 2). On campus, blackface and minstrel shows were a regular part of student events.

"Black Spartans (1907-1948)" is an invitation to the community to join us in surfacing these stories, ensuring these histories are preserved and presented in a way that honors these students' lives. Contact us at special.collections@sjsu.edu to participate.

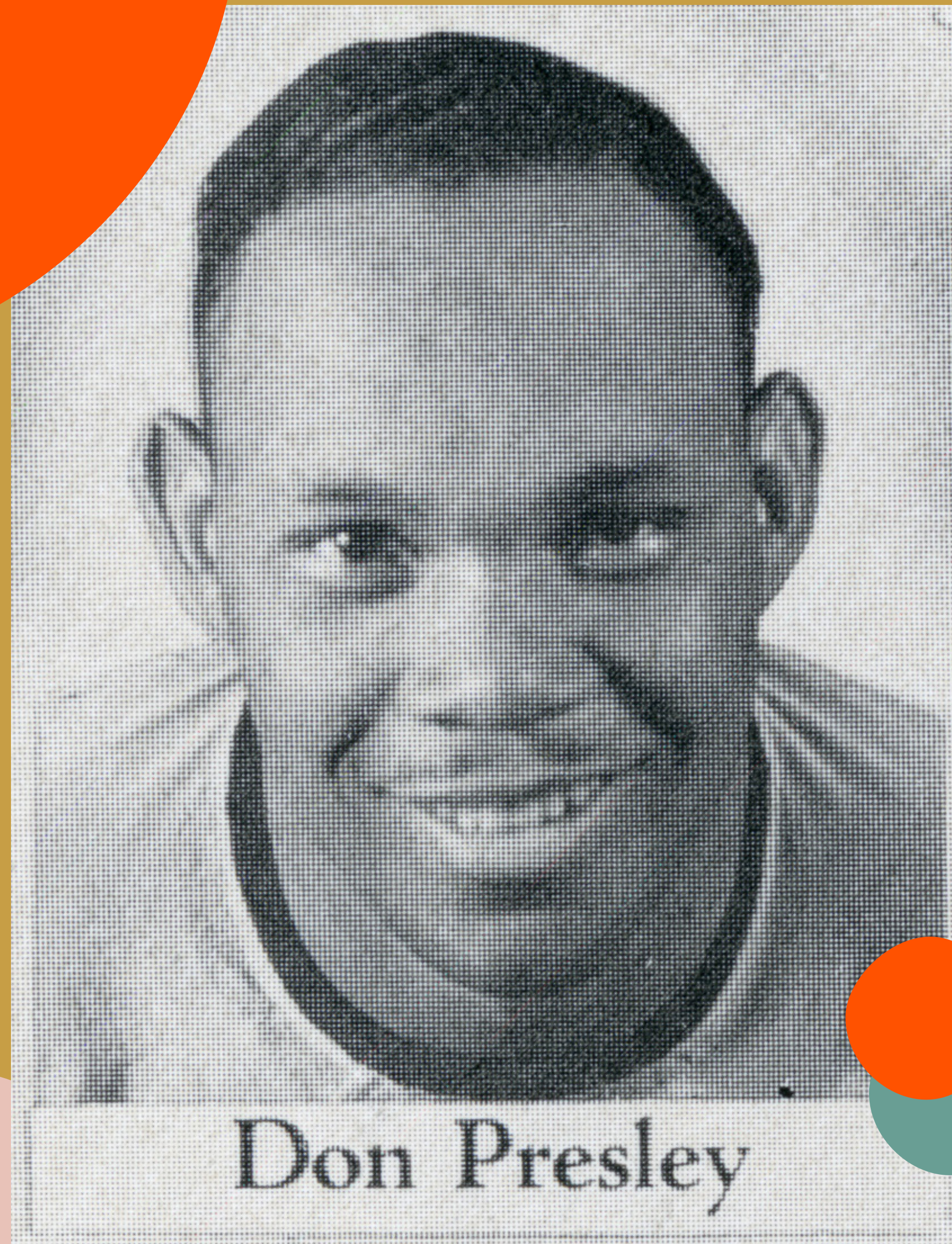
Carli V. Lowe - University Archivist
Kate Steffens - Special Collections Librarian

Artist Statement

The "Black Spartans (1907-1948)" exhibition is a homage to Black culture and history at San José State University and the Bay Area at large. Until recently, the significance of Black bodies in Bay Area history (as well as U.S. history) was overlooked. Unless it was associated with the struggles of civil rights leaders, athletes, or celebrity-personas, the story of a graduate from a state school wasn't valued because we weren't part of the mainstream culture. As a Black Spartan myself, I was deeply connected to these individuals that started out just like me. I saw a reflection of myself and my community throughout the process of making these mixed media portraits and came to realize how important it is to know your history because it becomes a catalyst for knowing who you are.

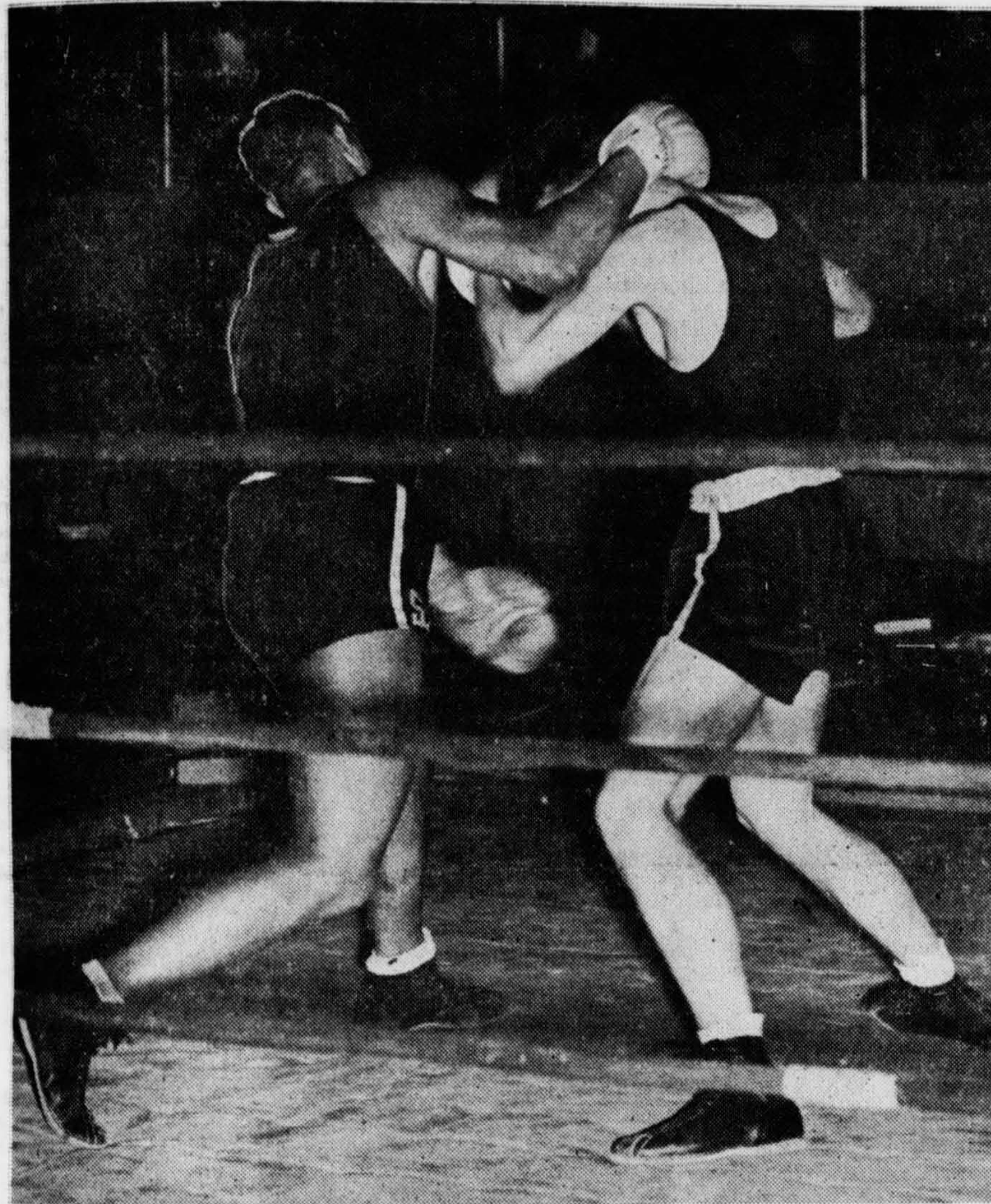
My work explores the intricacy of identity and the role culture, tradition, and history play. These portraits are embodiments of our Black Spartans, they are visual representations of the colorful and captivating lives they led. Through this work, I hope to influence other artists and individuals to take part in researching and finding out the infinite layers of what it means to be Black. Our history is beyond our struggle. We are the blueprint.

Yeab Kebede
'22 Digital Media Arts



Don Presley attended San Jose State College from 1937-1940. Presley was active in several sports, including football, heavyweight boxing, and track and field. In 1938, Presley and fellow Black students William Lewis and Lloyd Thomas performed the “Truckin” dance craze of the time as part of the Spartan Revue. That year he and his dance partner also won “Leading Campus Dancers” at the Press Club contest at the Student Union. In 1939, he lettered in Varsity Football. After graduation, Presley had a short career as a professional heavyweight boxer, from 1940-1941.

Walker And Presley Mix It ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ Walker Wins



It isn't through shame that the heads of Don Presley and Don Walker are turned from the cameraman, for these two boys turned in one of the most spectacular slugfests of the entire All-College Boxing Tournament last Thursday night. Spartan Daily photo by Dick Rundle.

Spartan Daily

January 11, 1937

Don Presley is pictured in action in the All-College Boxing Tournament.

Revue H ads To Preview Show In Dress Rehearsal

Cast To Assemble At Secret Presentation With Only Members Admitted

“Spartan Revue” directors will hold a secret dress rehearsal to-night in the Morris Dailey auditorium when the cast will assemble to give Maestros Bishop and Varich their first complete view of the P. E. Majors' show slated to go before the boards Wednesday night in the auditorium.

SECRET REHEARSAL

Co-director Steve Varich announced today that no one but the cast and directors would be admitted to the dress rehearsal which will start at seven o'clock. Reason for the great secrecy surrounding the rehearsal was given by Varich as a means of keeping the “mystery dancer” under cover. Closely guarding the identity of the dancer, Varich, when questioned, would dreamily speak only of her grace and beauty, intimating that she was a dancing star of national repute.

It was reported yesterday that Miss Bruce Wilbur, popular California's Hour favorite, will not entertain in the show.

PORTAL PRESIDES

Presided over by DeWitt Portal as master of ceremonies, the 14-act show has no central theme, but is a coordinated presentation of individual acts, all of which represent the best talent San Jose State has to offer, according to Publicity Director Helton Harper, press-agenting for the “Spartan Revue”.

Newest of the announced additions to the show is Don Presley, giant track and boxing star, who will do a take-off on Duke Ellington as part of the grid-dancing act being lead by “Ham” Hodgson.

Tickets may be purchased at the Controller's office, from P. E. Majors, or at the Morris Dailey booth.

Spartan Daily

February 2, 1937

Don Presley is mentioned as preparing to “do a take-off on Duke Ellington” as part of a show put on the by the Physical Education majors called the “Spartan Revue.”

**PRESLEY TAKES
THREE FIRST
PLACES**

STANFORD STADIUM, May 12
—San Jose State college's fresh-
man track and field team ran hog
wild over four high school oppon-
ents here this afternoon to score
over twice as many points as its
nearest competitor, Palo Alto.

The State frosh piled up the
impressive total of 78½ points
while the Palo Alto contingent
could only make 32½. Santa Clara
took third with 13; Menlo fourth
with 9, while Mountain View
brought up the rear with 3. One
unattached athlete, Don Lindsay
of San Jose high school took five
points with a first place in the
880.

THREE FOR DON

Giant Don Presley walked all
over the opposition with initial
places in the shot put, discus, and
low hurdles, and took a third in
the high barriers behind Les
Steers of Palo Alto and his team-
mate Staley.

Harvey Brooks accounted for
one of the double wins for the day
with a twin killing in the 100 and
220 yard dashes. Brooks also ran
the anchor lap on the winning 880
yard relay team.

VASCONCELLOS, INC.

The Vasconcellos brothers, Ed
and Hank took their usual share
of the points. Hank finished right
on the heels of Brooks in the 220
and was second to his brother
who won the broad jump. Ed also
placed second to Steers in the high
jump. In winning the broad jump,
“Tick” Vasconcellos moved out in-
to the ozone for a distance of 22
feet 8¾ inches before coming to
earth.

Captain Vin Ruble with a mighty
blaze of power at the finish broke
the tape in the mile run ahead of
Janovich of Mountain View.

The lead had wavered back and
forth between the two all during
the race. Janovich led coming
around the final turn but Captain
Vin turned on the heat to win by
two or three feet.

Spartan Daily

May 13, 1937

Don Presley takes first place in shot put,
discus, and low hurdles.

TODD CRACKS JAVELIN MARK; SPARTANS WIN P.A.A. CROWN AS THIRTEEN RECORDS MADE

PRESLEY HEAVES 56 POUND WEIGHT FOR BEST
MARK ON PACIFIC COAST IN 15 YEARS

By WILBUR KORSMEIER

SPARTAN FIELD, May 29.—Shattering the former P.A.A. javelin mark by more than 32 feet, and breaking his own school and field record by a good three feet, San Jose State's Lowell Todd stole high honors here today in the biggest track and field meet ever held on the local cinderpath—the Junior Pacific Athletic Association championships.

Along with Todd's heave of 219 feet 3½ inches, which rates among the top four in the United States, big Don Presley gathered plenty of honors with a second in the hammer throw, fourth in the shot, and an unexepected first in the 56-pound weight.

The outstanding fact is that Presley, competing for the Spar-

(Continued on Page Three)

(Continued from Page One)

tan frosh, had never thrown the hammer or the big weight before in his life. He outdid himself in the 56-pound weight event with a 30 foot 6 inch throw that bested husky John Ryan of the Olympic club. According to Ryan, Presley's heave was the best on the coast for 15 years.

Spartan Daily

June 1, 1937

Don Presley competes in the hammer throw for the first time and places second with a throw of 30 feet and 6 inches.

SAN JOSE, CALIFORNIA, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 21, 1937

CAL TECH, BEWARE!

230 pound Don Presley will be rarin' to tear through the Beaver line Friday night. Presley played an end position on the frosh grid squad last year, but Coach Dud DeGroot has shifted him to a guard this season. His play has been outstanding in every game this year. He hails from Monrovia, where he was a sensational prep gridder with Leroy Zimmerman.



Deadline Today For Intramural

With the deadline for intramural basketball signups set for Thursday, Coach "Tiny" Hartranft, director of intramural activities, is looking forward to an exciting cage schedule. Managers may sign for the tournament in the men's P. E. office, and must also give a list of players.

According to present plans, the schedule will be made out over the week-end, released Monday, and play is to begin Tuesday evening. The first game will start at 6 o'clock, with the second following immediately, probably at 7 o'clock.

Rules state that only one member of last year's varsity basketball squad or freshman lettermen list may play on each team.



State Frosh Meet Cal Poly Saturday

With only two more days before the yearling footballers meet Cal Poly in what will undoubtedly be the hardest match on the freshman schedule, Coach Glenn E. "Tiny" Hartranft spent the afternoon yesterday in running the squad through an hour and a half of hard scrimmage.

Spartan Daily

October 21, 1937

Don Presley prepares to play in a guard position in a football game against Cal Tech.

As They Saw It . . .

Returning Members Of Hawaiian Football Party Give Their Impressions Of The 'Pacific Paradise'

By WALT HECOX

Big Don Presley, lackadaisical, and with an easy going grin, ambling down the gangplank with a comparatively frail orange lei draped ridiculously across his shoulders, stood out as a happily humorous highlight of the jubilant group of San Jose State college football players who returned from Hawaii Wednesday.

Statements from returning grid-ders, managers, and coaches give some idea of the mixed emotions they felt as they arrived in San Francisco.

COACH DUD DEGROOT, after exchanging greetings with those who were waiting for him on the dock, answered questions about possibilities of his returning to the University of Hawaii as head coach with a blunt, "That was just a lot of newspaper baloney, started by Island papers and carried on over here. I have heard nothing about it . . . We had a fine trip, and will definitely return next year."

BULL LEWIS, senior fullback, was exuberant, "Those islands are absolutely the finest place in the

world. This is three trips for me, and I think I'll make another that will be permanent."

GEORGE DOLPHIN, senior manager in '36, who has spent a year in the Islands, felt differently. "My stay in the Islands was a wonderful experience," he said, "but my return to good old California is even more wonderful. I'll take the Golden Gate over Diamond Head any day."

HERM ZETTERQUIST, soph righthalf, replied to questions with, "Fine trip. Never felt better in my life." But he grinned sheepishly when BOB BRONZAN, soph tackle countered with "Nuts. He was sick all the way over and all the way back."

JOE CUSTER, Mercury Herald Sports Editor, said, "The Islands are all they are cracked up to be . . . And don't take that DeGroot 'rumor' too lightly."

NORM SANDERS, senior quarter, said, "Glad to be back." . . then glancing at Connie . . . "Exceptionally glad!"

. . . while DON HILL mumbled incoherently in the background, "What a place."



Spartan Daily

December 27, 1937

Don Presley is described returning with the football team from a game in Hawaii.



Lettermen

Back row: Fosberg, Jennings, Poole, Buffa, B. Tichenal, Presley, Berry, McPherson, Pierce, Zetterquist, Withycombe

4th row: Taylor, Hodgson, Carroll, Garcia, Olsen, Swartzell, Haney, Hudson, Aronson, Rotholtz, L. Carpenter

3rd row: Riordan, Cammack, Wiles, Manoogian, White, Locks, Savage, D. Tichenal, Pitcher, Nasimento

2nd row: Nepote, Lindgren, Boucke, Harper, Bendeich, Birlem, Hilton, Thomas, Garcia, Lewis, Price, Thurman

1st row: Martinez, Tuxford, Lavagnino, R. Johnson, Cassera, H. White, Eldridge, Cary, Wenglein, Chambers, Rocchi, Ucovich

La Torre Yearbook

1938

Don Presley is pictured as a Lettermen.



BOXING

Front Row: Ray Bruton, Paul Tara, Jim Fahn, Tony Pisano; *Second Row:* Ed Grant, John Flesher, Wayne Bonham, Coach “Dee” Portal, Gene Fisk, Dale Wren; *Third Row:* Manager Ed Beall, James Kincaid, Ed White, Don Pressley, Don Walker, Pete Bolich, Manager Warren Tormey.

La Torre Yearbook

1938

Don Presley is pictured as a member of the boxing team.

Bob Berry

Joe Reginato

Mickey Slingluff

Doan Carmody

Don Presley

Gordon Ballard

Dudley DeGroot, Head Coach

Bob Titchenal, San Jose center, is blocking the kick that put the Spartans in a scoring position against Pacific. The ball went out of bounds on the Bengal 14-yard line. Thomas and Buffa are coming in.

San Jose 59, College of Idaho 0 San Jose 40, Laverne College 0 San Jose 12, Pacific 7

La Torre Yearbook

1938

Don Presley is pictured as a member of the football team.



La Torre Yearbook

1938

Don Pressley is pictured as a member of the track and field team.

P. E. MAJORS SPARTAN REVUE TO FEATURE HARLEM MUSIC

Joe Rishwain, Freshman Vocalist, To Appear For First Time

Dark nights, thumping rhythm, flashing lights, and wild unrestraint of Harlem, the kingdom of dance, will come to the stage of Morris Dailey auditorium the night of February 2 with the production of the Spartan Revue, according to Bill Jennings, assistant chairman for the event.

Sponsored by men P. E. Majors, negro spirituals will be sung that evening by Willard LeCroy, chairman of the performance.

The frenzied and careless characteristics of truckin' will appear as "Bull" Lewis, Lloyd Thomas, and Don Presley break forth with swingin' and swayin'.

Dressed in black with only a few accents in dead white, the Musketeers, famous college quartet, will be clothed in the mystery of a darkened stage and eery movements as they present a novelty skeleton number.

A freshman vocalist will make his first appearance on the stage in the person of Joe Rishwain.

Spartan Daily

January 17, 1938

Don Presley is anticipated to demonstrate the "frenzied and careless characteristics of truckin'" with fellow Black Spartans William Lewis and Lloyd Thomas at the upcoming Spartan Revue.

Large Crowd Sees Don Presley, Partner Named Leading Campus Dancers At Press Club Contest

Harlem Hi De Ho Type Of Truckin' Taking College By Storm

With spectators numbering more than twenty times the contestants, a Truckin' contest was held in the Student Union yesterday noon.

Since such general interest in the Harlem brand of hi-de-ho highland-flinging has taken the college by storm, the Press club took this opportunity to decide

once and for all this week just who are the best truckers on the San Jose State campus.

Don Presley and his partner proved to be the best couple of the hour, and was awarded a free bid to Saturday night's Press Dance. A bid was also given to Myrtle Washington, best woman, and to "Monk" Martin, best man.

Spartan Daily

February 25, 1938

Don Presley "and his partner" win a Truckin' dance contest held in the Student Union.



Big Don Presley will have his work cut out for him Saturday when the Olympic Club invades Spartan Field for a track meet with the local scanty-clad athletes. Presley, who won three first places last week against San Francisco State, will meet some top men in the weight events and will be forced to come through with some spectacular tosses to edge out the Winged-O competitors. —Photo Courtesy Mercury Herald

Spartan Daily

April 7, 1938

Don Presley is pictured in action as he prepares for a track meet against the Olympic Club.

GOOD MARKS MADE BY SPARTAN CINDERMEN

Captain Collins Runs 48.6 Quarter; Herman Turns In 1:58.7 Half-Mile

Although no point totals were kept during yesterday's informal track workout between San Jose State and Stanford's Indians, times and distances turned in by several Spartan cindermen brought added hope to Coach "Tiny" Hartranft for a good season.

Slow in getting into shape because of weather conditions, the Staters gave indication that they might obtain form which will make them a threat to Fresno State when the two squads meet next Friday night.

Especially pleasing to Hartranft was the performance of Captain Owen Collins. Unable to cut under the 50 second mark in two previous starts this season, Collins came in way under that mark when he won the quarter-mile race in 48.6 seconds. Stanford's Ray Malott was not an entry in this race, confining himself to an individual workout over the 350

yard route.

Len Herman, middle distance runner who continues to lower his time in each race, showed indications that he has not yet reached his lowest figure when he turned in a 1:58.7 half-mile. The Spartan runner opened the season by winning a 2:02 race in San Francisco two weeks ago, and cut this time to 1:59 against the Olympic club last week. Vin Ruble threatened the 10 minute mark in the two mile with a 10:03 mark yesterday.

Last Saturday big Don Presley broke the school record in the shot put, but yesterday he added two inches to that mark and shoved the iron ball 47'8" away from the seven foot ring.

Another highlight of the workout was the clean sweep scored by the trio of Spartan broad jumpers in the pit spanning event. "Tickie" Vasconcellos won the event at 22'3" followed by Charlie Bendeich and Al Parr.

Spartan Daily

April 15, 1938

Don Presley adds two inches to his already recodbreaking shot put mark.

State Star Throws Spear Out 208 Feet To Regain Old Form

Presley Bests Own Shot Record, Takes Second
In Weight; Collins Fourth In 440

By KEITH BIRLEM
Returning to form, Lowell Todd featured San Jose State's participation in the annual Pacific association track and field championships Saturday at Edwards stadium, Berkeley, with his record breaking javelin throw of 208 feet 6 inches.
Amassing fifteen points, the Spartan squad finished fourth in the scoring behind the Olympic Club, California, and Stanford in that order.

Todd, in winning the spear heaving event, bested throws by Waterbury and Mottram of the Olympic Club and Jones of Fresno who all beat the Spartan ace in dual competition earlier in the year. Todd's javelin throw breaks the P.A.A. record of 204 feet set by Friedman of the Olympic Club in 1931.
Don Presley not only bested his own college shot put record by a foot in taking third in the event but also took second in the 56-pound weight behind Gordon "Slinger" Dunn of the Winged-O. In the 56-pound weight, Presley was easily out in front with two throws of 31 feet 11 1/2 inches until Dunn uncorked one to beat the best by only three-fourths of an inch.
Presley's new school record in the shot is 48 feet 7 1/2 inches and was bettered only by Allee of the Club and Stan Anderson of Stanford.
Owen Collins picked on some real competition and finished fourth behind Mallott of Stanford, Blackman of the Club, and Modisette of California in a new record for the quarter-mile of 47.4 seconds.
Charlie Bendeich finished fourth in the broad jump with a leap of 23 feet 3 1/4 inches.

Spartan Daily

May 2, 1938

Don Presley continues to break records in shot put.

THE ANSWER

Dear Mr. Lloyd Thomas:

In answer to your claim that Bill Van Vleck is not the only mustached boxer in the United States and that Don Presley should have been included, I give you the following information:

1. Two weeks ago Presley's mustache was snipped off by his football team mates. You should know that.

2. At the time of my claim, he had not grown another.

3. He has not boxed for the college for the past year and a half.

4. You could never classify his four (4) wisps of brush hair as a mustache. His upper lip always looks barren and deserted.

Hoping this will satisfy your claims,

As Ever,
Ben Melzer.

Spartan Daily

November 7, 1938

Don Presley's facial hair briefly becomes a matter of public debate.

San Jose Boxers Trim YMCA 8-1

Don Presley, giant Spartan heavyweight, drummed out a decision over Ben Warmer last night in Spartan Pavilion as the San Jose State boxing team trounced the San Francisco YMCA 8 to 1.

With the two biggest college heavyweights on the Pacific Coast meeting in this "Battle of Giants", the dusky "Monrovia Mauler" knocked his opponent down in the first round and had him hanging on throughout the second canto.

The only defeat came as Bill Amann was decisioned by Ralph Lasky of the 'Y'. This was a real slugfest from start to finish, and both coaches were ready to throw in the towel.

Spartan Daily

January 27, 1939

Don Presley is declared the winner in a boxing match against Ben Warmer of the YMCA team.

PUNCHING THE BAG

By BEN MELZER

Don Presley, the widely heralded San Jose State heavyweight, lost his first bout in outside competition the other night when the team battled Cal. Aggies. And many local fans who predicted such a bright future for the Spartan were disappointed. The reason for his loss is obvious; Presley has only experienced three bouts in his career.

Although Presley has been on the receiving end of more favorable publicity than any other fighter on the team, publicity doesn't make a fighter—it's more likely to ruin him. The publicizers went overboard on Don because of his burly frame and his other accomplishments in athletics; he's the type that sports writers and fans like to write and talk about. This is no fault of Don's, but it should show him that he will have to train a little harder than the average boxer to compensate for the enormous publicity given him.

* * * *

Spartan Daily

March 7, 1939

Don Presley loses in a boxing match against Cal's team.

Don Presley Wins 56 Pound Weight; Sets Shot Record

By FRANK BONANNO

EDWARDS FIELD, Berkeley, April 29.—San Jose State's 12-man track team piled up 14 2-3 points to place fourth in the sixteenth annual running of the Pacific Association A.A.U. meet, and saw the San Francisco Olympic Club carry off the team title again.

The Spartans took a minor share of the prize money as the

Olympic Club, California (running unattached) and Stanford teams divided most of the glory.

PRESLEY STANDS OUT

Led by big Don Presley, who took an unexpected first in the 56 pound weight-tossing event, the San Jose tracksters gained nothing but valuable experience. Presley, the jack of all trades on the Spartan team, placed fourth in the shot with a put of 49'¼", to break his week-old record of 48' 10⅞".

Tony Sunseri and Al (Mickey) Finn, San Jose's pole vaulting twins, both went out at 13 feet, and had to be satisfied with a three way tie for fourth place. Warmerdam of the Olympic Club who won the event at 14 feet 5½ inches, attempted to break the world's record, but three trials at the height of 14 feet 11⅜ inches found it too high for even Warmerdam to clear.

Spartan Daily

May 1, 1939

Don Presley is heralded for yet another record-breaking shot put performance.

Presley Awarded 'Pen Of Week'

Don Presley, giant Spartan guard, is the winner of this week's Ace Bagby "Pen of the Week" award, according to the judges.

Another flip of the coin was necessary to determine whether this week's fountain pen should go to Presley or to Bob Bronzan, another giant in the Spartan stand against Santa Barbara State, it was announced.

Bagby announces that one more pen of the week award will be made following the Drake game.

Spartan Daily

October 31, 1939

Don Presley is awarded the "Pen of the Week," which appears to have been a short-lived recognition of success in athletics sponsored by a local fountain pen company.

OLD FOX



POP WARNER
Advisory Coach

Heart Of San Jose Spartans' Undented 'Maginot Line' ..



TORNELL
Right Tackle



PRESLEY
Right Guard



TITCHENAL
Center



COOK
Left Guard



BRONZAN
Left Tackle

YOUNG FOX



DUD DE GROOT
Head Coach

Spartan Daily

November 22, 1939

Don Presley is pictured among the "Heart of San Jose Spartans" football team.

S. J. PUGILIST



Big Don Presley, one of the outstanding linemen on Coach Dud DeGroot's 1939 undefeated football eleven, is shown above in a characteristic boxing pose. Presley is preparing for the Pacific Coast Intercollegiate tournament to be held in Sacramento next week.

Spartan Daily

March 8, 1940

Don Presley demonstrates a "characteristic boxing pose" in advance of a tournament in Sacramento.

**Track Team Places
Third; Don Presley
Breaks Own Mark**

**VASCONCELLOS COPS FIRST
PLACE IN BROAD JUMP**
By HANK LITTEN
Assistant Sports Editor
BLACKSTONE STADIUM, Fresno, May 18.—California Collegiate Athletic Association track and field performers went on a record-breaking orgy here tonight as Fresno State swept to the team title by scoring 67 points, 25 more than the second place winner, San Diego. San Jose was third with 37½ points.
Highlight of the meet from the San Jose standpoint was

the outstanding marks chalked up by big Don Presley, Spartan three-sport star. Presley broke his own CCAA shot put record by over a foot when he threw the iron bulb 49 feet 4¾ inches. Later in the evening he got off the best throw of his life in the discus, only to lose the title he won in 1939 by one inch to Davis of Fresno. Presley spun the platter out 139 feet 11½ inches.

Vin Ruble successfully defended his half mile crown in the mediocre time of 1:57.7. Last year the slim Spartan set the conference record with a 1:55.5 and he was out to crack the mark tonight but a slow first 220 kept him from breaking the record.

LEAPS 23' 6"
Co-captain Ticky Vasconcellos broke the existing CCAA broad jump mark with a leap of 23 feet 6½ inches, ten inches short of his best 1940 mark. John Peek captured second spot in the event, three inches behind Vasconcellos.

Tony Sunzeri, after clearing 13 feet 6 inches in the pole vault, injured his heel and was hampered in his attempts to jump 13 feet 9 inches. Bob Hoffman of Fresno went on to take the first place belt buckle, and in doing so set a new meet record. Hoffman's mark of 13 fet 9 inches broke the record of 13 feet set last year by Sunzeri and Finn of San Jose.

GRANT SECOND
Ed Grant, throwing between leaps in the high jump, took second in the javelin behind the tremendous throw of Larry Sundahl of Fresno who threw the willow wand 222 feet 9¾ inches to break the conference record by more than 40 feet.

Jim Kerr and John Sedell finished.
(Continued on Page Four)

Spartan Daily

May 20, 1940

Don Presley continues to have success in shot put and discus.

LETTER WINNERS ANNOUNCED

ALLEN, PRESLEY

Johnny Allen and Don Presley, San Jose's outstanding negro athletes, were the only ones to be given letters in three sports. Allen played end on the football team, guard in basketball and performed as first baseman on the baseball nine.

Presley was running guard in football, heavyweight in boxing and weightman on the track and field squad.

Spartan Daily

May 29, 1940er 22, 1939

Don Presley is one of only two students to be awarded letters in three sports: football, boxing, and track and field.

Kincaid, Presley Fight In AAU Tourney Tonight In Oakland

WEIGH-INS AND DRAWINGS TODAY

By CON LACY

Two Spartan boxers will square-off tonight in the annual Northern California AAU amateur boxing championships sponsored by the Post-Enquirer at the Oakland auditorium.

KINCAID, PRESLEY ENTERED

Jim Kincaid and Don Presley are competing in the Senior division of the welterweight and heavyweight divisions, respectively. Both have finished their collegiate competition.

College boxers are forbidden to enter AAU competition unless under college supervision, Coach Dee Portal declared, or more Spartans would be entered.

WEIGH-INS TODAY

Weigh-ins and drawing are held this afternoon, with the quarter-final round tonight. Semi-finals will be held on the night of June 6, and finals on June 10.

If the Olympic tryouts are held, winners will be allowed an opportunity to compete in the state championships sometime in July, Portal declared. Tournament winners will be awarded gold and silver belt buckles.

KINCAID BEST CHANCE

Kincaid is conceded the best chance of placing in the tournament by Portal, being Intercollegiate champion in 1939, and Captain of the San Jose boxing team to Japan.

Presley has been inconsistent in collegiate competition, showing sparks of brilliance in training, but failing in competition. He is a good boxer, but is not aggressive.

LACKS AGGRESSION

The past season has been his most successful when he finished in the runner-up spot in the inter-collegiates. Towards the latter part of the season he remedied his lack of aggressiveness to a certain extent.

Spartan Daily

June 3, 1940

MIDNIGHT FLASH

225-pound Don Presley TKO'd Don Crimo, Amateur Athletic club boxer, in the third round of tonight's leather-bout, qualifying himself for the June 10 finals.

Spartan Daily

June 7, 1940

Despite being criticized for a lacking aggression, Don Presley wins technical knockout in the Amateur Athletic club qualifiers, going on to win the title.

PRESLEY WINS A.A.U. TITLE

Beats Nordeen In Three-Round Boxing Match For Amateur Crown

FIGHTER ENDS COLLEGE CAREER

Big Don Presley, 225-pound football, boxing and track star, brought to a fitting climax his three years of boxing Monday night when he captured the Northern California Amateur heavy-weight title.

UNANIMOUS DECISION

The former Monrovia high school four sports man, won a unanimous decision over Connie Nordeen of the Golden Oaks Athletic club in the feature bout of the evening.

The win marks Presley the first major title ever won by the colored athlete, who earlier in the year was runner-up in the Pacific Coast Intercollegiate championships.

PROS WATCH

His win was watched with interest by professional promoters, who have been following the career of the versatile performer. Presley has signed with Ancil Hoffman, former manager of Max Baer, one time world's heavyweight champion, it has been reported.

Presley closed his collegiate career last month when he captured the shot put and discus title of the California Collegiate Athletic Association track and field championship for the second consecutive year. Presley is the school record holder in the shot put with a heave of 49 feet 11½ inches.

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