

Korfball: A Dutch treat comes to town

By JEFF NIELSON
Of the Emerald

Eugene, and particularly the University, has always had the reputation of being sports-crazy. On a sunny spring day, bikeways are full of riders, joggers make their way down many streets and an empty tennis court is as hard to find as a spare seat in McArthur Court.

It is this atmosphere that may give rise to a new sport — korfball.

Korfball, a game that originated in the Netherlands at the beginning of the century, is a contest that has the characteristics of many sports. It can be played outdoors on a court with three divisions—an offensive, a defensive and a center court — or it may be brought indoors for a faster version of the game played on a two-sided court with only attack and defense courts.

Either way it is played, the object is the same — to score points by getting a ball (similar in design to a soccer ball) through a wicker basket set on a metal pole 11½ feet off the playing surface on either end of the court. There are four women and four men on each squad; half of whom are in the defensive court while the other four are charged with the offense.

Korfball, which is second in spectator popularity only to soccer in Holland, was introduced to the Eugene area last week when a traveling squad of Dutch all-stars held an exhibition in Mac Court against a combined team from Oregon's men and women's basketball programs.

Although the indoor version is played on something like a basketball court, korfball bears little resemblance to the physical game usually played in the Pit. Running or dribbling with the ball is prohibited, goals can only be scored from a non-guarded position (a closely-guarded player cannot shoot over his opponent), guarding a player of the opposite sex is not allowed and defense is always man-to-man.

These restrictions make the game a very fast-moving one. The ball is passed back and forth much like in rugby, and a shot from 40 feet out isn't unusual. Athletes must be in superb shape to keep up with the tempo of the game.

Because of korfball's great conditioning aspect, and the fact that the game is co-educational, some educators are enthusiastic about importing the game to the United States.

Dr. Jan Broekhoff, a professor in the University's School of Physical Education, was first contacted by Fred Harting, head of the Royal Dutch Korfball Association, while at the International Council on Health, Physical Education and Recreation last year in Rotterdam, The Netherlands. He, for one, believes korfball could catch on here.

"With Title IX upon us, I feel korfball is perfect for Eugene," he said. "I think it could be big — not as a highly competitive sport like basketball, but as a perfect alternative for students who aren't able to make the intercollegiate teams. This would be a perfect example of the 'fun' aspect of the game."

Korfball has already made inroads into the Eugene sports scene. The Dutch squad (all amateurs traveling out of their own pockets), were so impressed with the friendliness of Oregon, they left a set of baskets and poles worth \$250 here when they went on to their next stop in Milwaukee, Wis. The Springfield school district has purchased a set of baskets and a University service course in korfball has been proposed for next fall.

So, who knows, there might soon be yet another activity to engage in when the wet Oregon winters make outdoor sports impossible.

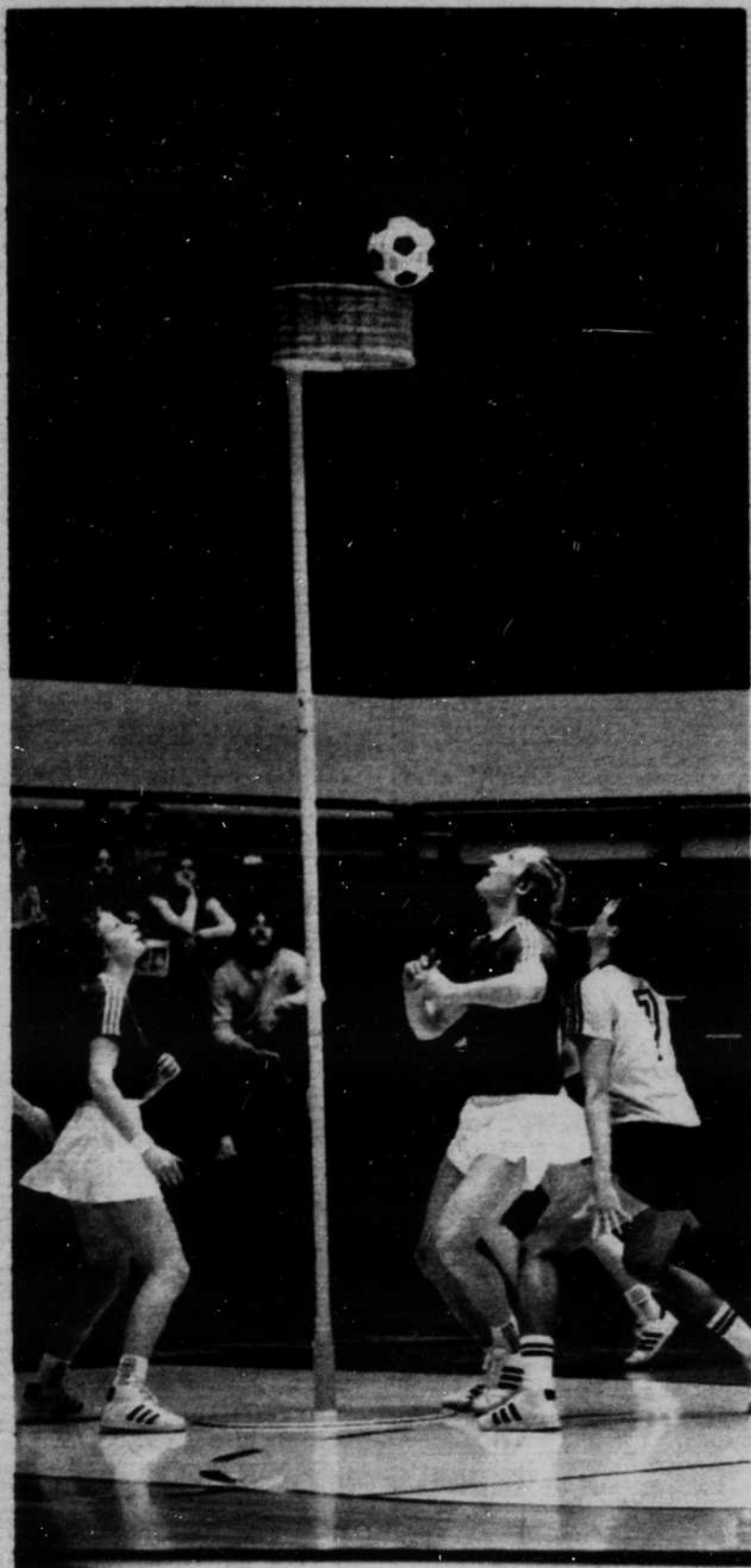


Photo by John Johns

The game premiered last week at Mac Court

emerald sports

Costly errors spell defeat

Oregon's baseball team, beset by costly errors at critical times, dropped its third game in as many days Wednesday as Willamette edged the Ducks 11-10 at Howe Field.

Oregon, which had a five-game winning streak going, has now lost to Oregon College of Education, Linfield and the Bearcats since Monday.

The Ducks were plagued by errors — nine in all — and especially when it counted the most. Down 7-5 going into the sixth, Bob Niehaus hit a two-run double to right and Mike Connolly followed with a two-run single to left-center to put the Ducks up 9-7.

But errors choked the Ducks in the eighth. Willamette pushed across four runs — all of them unearned — as Oregon committed three errors.

Behind 11-9 in the bottom of the ninth, the Ducks' Glen Gaboury walked, Connolly singled and Dave Ulrich walked to load the bases with no outs. Ray Smith's fielder's choice forced Ulrich out but scored Gaboury to make it 11-10.

Jeff Stanton then bunted but Willamette pitcher Kevin Smith nipped Connolly with a throw to the plate. Oregon's Paul Kirsch lined to right and that was that.

Oregon Starter Craig Fetzer gave up four hits in three and one-third innings on the mound. Sophomore Ray Paiement, who went four innings, suffered the loss.

Oregon outlived the Bearcats 15-7 but Willamette had only three errors' to the Ducks' nine.

Oregon, now 9-4, hosts Lewis and Clark today at Howe field in a nine-inning tilt beginning at 3 p.m.

WILLAMETTE	202	102	040	—11	7	3
OREGON	002	201	401	—10	15	9

Huddleston, Farrell (6), Smith (9) and Simmers, Derick (7), Fetzer, Cunningham (4), Paiement (6) and Hollins, Reed (9). W—Farrell. L—Paiement. 3b—Willamette, Holt. 2b—Willamette, Holt; Oregon, Connolly, Niehaus. RBI—Willamette, Holt, Bray, Hardy, Moore, Nier; Oregon, Connolly 3, Ulrich 2, Niehaus 2, Smith, Stanton.

Sportfolio

Ducks open season

Oregon opens its tennis season today with a home match against Oregon College of Education at 3:30 p.m.

Duck coach Marty Schey has yet to determine her top players but expects Mary Miller, Debbie Borchers, Linda Hartling, Patti Layton, Shelley Barnes, Laurie Butte, Jeanette Florey and Brenda Stroud to all be playing for the varsity. Layton was OCE's top player last year and the Monmouth team will be weak without her. The Ducks topped OCE twice last year (5-4 and 9-0) as they tallied a 10-1 season record.

Bowlers place

The Oregon women's bowling team took second place in the Chemeketa Invitational Tournament last weekend. In singles competition, Shauna Lae won first place with a 595 series and Jeanne Ingwersen took second with a 560 series. Shauna and

Jeanne took fourth and fifth places respectively in all events.

Karate club prepares

If you see a small army of barefoot men and women running through Eugene wearing white pa-

jamas this week, don't be alarmed. It'll just be the Oregon Karate Club during Kankeiko (spring training) which lasts from April 5 to April 11.

The club is preparing for the Collegiate Invitational Tournament set for April 24 at McArthur Court.

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