

Women's soccer blooming

By PATRICK SULLIVAN
Of the Emerald

What began as a SEARCH class is now an intercollegiate sport for Oregon women, and may take 18 University students to Hawaii this spring.

Derek Wilkins taught a SEARCH class during spring term of 1973 for women interested in soccer. Approximately 30 women were introduced to soccer, and interest has grown tremendously ever since. Wilkins believes the women needed an "alternative to team sports offered by the University."

Wilkins formed a team from his SEARCH class during the fall of 1974. The schools the women played were contacted individually because no league existed. Wilkins set up a meeting for schools interested prior to the

1975 season and a schedule was set up.

Oregon State, Reed College, Lewis and Clark and Oregon were the original members of the league. The team is now under the title of Club Sports.

The varsity squad is determined to spend spring break this year playing soccer in Hawaii. The money necessary for the trip will come from area businesses willing to support the team, and from the players through fundraising events. About one-fifth of the money has been raised. The immediate goal of the team, however, is to have a successful season.

The team defeated Faith Center 6-2 in their opening match last week. Oregon is coached by Wilkins, Rand Gerlach and Ken Manning who picked 30 women

for the JV and varsity teams from the 50 who tried out. Each team carries 15 players.

Gerlach is optimistic about this year's varsity.

"Our JV team could have beaten last year's varsity," he said.

The varsity team will play in the Pioneer Tournament this weekend at Delta Park in Portland. The tournament is sponsored by Lewis and Clark College. Lewis and Clark will be Oregon's toughest opponent, according to Gerlach.

Both the University and Eugene Parks and Recreation Department have caught on to the interest of women's soccer. The University now offers a soccer class for women, and the parks department will run a city-wide women's soccer league for the second year this spring. Gerlach, who runs the parks-sponsored league, hopes for eight or nine teams this spring. Five participated last year.

Menkens tabbed top athlete

ASHLAND—University of Oregon swimmer Michelle Menkens was named Oregon's Outstanding Female Athlete of 1975-76 on Friday, Oct. 8, in Ashland. The award was presented at the annual luncheon on the Oregon Division of the National Association for Girls and Women in Sports.

Menkens, a 20-year-old junior from Coos Bay, won the Association for Intercollegiate Athletics for Women 50-freestyle national title in 1975. This year, she scored 45 points in the AIAW meet, singlehandedly placing Oregon twentieth in the team standings. She was third in the 100 free-style, fourth in the 50 freestyle, ninth in the 100 butterfly and 12th in the 50 butterfly.

Becky Sisley, women's athletic director at Oregon, praised Menkens for her dedication not only to the sport but to women's athletics in general. Menkens is a member of the Women's Sports Council, an organization which acts on athlete concerns. In addition, she is a voting student representative on the Women's Intercollegiate Athletics Advisory Council, the group which guides the activities and policies of women's athletics at the University.

Sisley called Menkens "a concerned athlete, an individual who has been willing to give of her time for the betterment of the entire program at Oregon. Her swimming records give evidence of her superior athletic talents."

Past recipients of the annual award are Joni Huntley of Oregon State in 1974, and Mary Officer of Oregon in 1975.

sportfolio

Handball Club forming ladder

The Oregon Handball Club is forming a team ladder for competition in fall intramurals. Players must be on the ladder to become a member of the club. The entry deadline is Friday, and forms are available at the intramural office in Esslinger Hall.

Varsity, JV field hockey set

The Oregon varsity and JV field hockey teams open their fall schedules at Oregon College of Education today. Both games are at 4 p.m. The varsity travels to Boise Friday to face Boise State at 4 p.m. At 10 a.m. Saturday at Boise the Ducks will play Eastern Oregon followed by a game with Boise State at 1:30 p.m.

Husky tickets on sale Monday

Tickets for the Oct. 23 Oregon-Washington football game in Seattle will go on sale next Monday, and not Tuesday as reported in Wednesday's Emerald. Tickets can be purchased in the athletic department next to McArthur Court for \$4, and students must show a paid fees card. For more information call the athletic department at X4481.

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USC keeps offense lead

Southern California continues to run away with the team offense title, and Oregon dropped to second place in rushing defense according to this week's Pacific-8 statistics.

The Trojans are now averaging 484.6 yards a game with

California a distant second at 416.4. Oregon is in eighth with 230.2. USC jumped ahead of the Ducks in rushing defense as they now average just 138.6 yards a game to Oregon's 142.2. The Ducks are currently second in team defense behind Washington with 286.4 yards a game.

In individual statistics, Oregon safety Darrell Mellum is second in the conference in interceptions with three for 54 yards. USC's Dennis Thurman leads with three for 60 yards. Oregon's Greg Bullock remains third in kick-off returns with a 22.2 yard average.

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