

skiing

Skiing team fun and hard work in successful season opening meets

By NICK DAWSON
Of the Emerald

Skiing.

Brings on thoughts of gliding down slopes of white powder, doesn't it. For a lot of people, it is that way. For others, it means putting on those fiberglass sleds to try once more to conquer that sheet of ice they call a ski slope. A lot of those people fall. Some end up being carried off the slope.

To most people though, skiing means leisure; escaping from the day-to-day grinds of the office or the classroom.

But to Randy Rogers and about three dozen other Oregon students, skiing means a fair amount of leisure, and a whole lot of work.

Rogers is the captain and coach of the Club Sports skiing team. It is a squad that blends experience with youth to form possibly the strongest collegiate skiing team in the Pacific Northwest. As a matter of fact, Rogers' squad, in only two meets, has defeated every other school in the northwest, plus a few outside of this region.

Two weeks ago, the Oregon team finished first of league teams and second overall in the Crystal Cup, a Northwest Conference, Northern Division meet. Though Oregon competes in the Southern Division, their first place showing counted in conference standings.

Last weekend, the Oregon men's team took first and the women's team finished second in the Cranston Cup, at Mt. Bachelor.

Probably the most significant thing about these strong showings is that Oregon knocked off a number of schools competing in the NCAA that offer scholarships to their skiers. Oregon's team does not, because it is a Club Sports program.

"If we can beat NCAA teams, we must be approaching their level of competition," said Rogers. "We haven't even skied well in a meet and we've beaten everybody. When we do ski well, it'll be amazing. It'll be exciting."

Obviously a team, no matter how many or how few athletes on scholarships it has, or doesn't have, has to work hard to be successful, at any level of competition. Rogers will attest to hard work as being successful for his squad.

Rogers puts his squad through



Photo by Bruce Jackson

Scott Kime has been one of the keys behind the Club Sports skiing team. Oregon's squad has beaten all of its northwest competition, though coach Randy Rogers feels they have yet to perform up to their capabilities.

workouts in the East Gym of the Esslinger complex. "We're training every day. As far as on-snow practice, we haven't since Christmas vacation, because we can't get up to the mountains," explained Rogers.

Rogers puts his team through agility and endurance drills in the gym. "There really is some stuff you can do," said Rogers. "The way we see it is if we can't train on the snow we oughta do what we can to improve ourselves."

The traveling squad consists of from 20 to 22 men and women for each meet, stated Rogers. Usually, a normal amount would be 18, but Oregon has a number of specialists in at least one of the three events. Each meet consists of two alpine events, slalom and giant slalom, and one nordic event, cross-country.

On the men's team, only Rogers, a South Eugene grad, and Charlie Skinner, out of Corvallis High, compete in all three events. "It's called the ski meister award,"

explained Rogers. "We call it the Oscar-Meyer award — the head hot dog."

Besides Rogers and Skinner, there are a number of other talented skiers in the team. As a matter of fact, four of them have competed on past junior national teams. Scott Kime of Churchill, Charlie Gould of Bend, Paul White of Euphrata, Wash., and Evelyn Duffy are all top skiers in the Club Sports program.

So there you have it. The Oregon skiing team. They compete weekly, and win, but with few laurels. So what is it that makes these people work so hard to achieve what they have?

"There's a real strong team feeling toward winning," Rogers said. "We're trying to develop a program that will last for years and years. I'd like to see the U of O have the best program for a long time."

That certainly makes the hard work worthwhile.



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