

'Ultimate' game gains club status

By JEFF PETERSEN
Of the Emerald

Ultimate Frisbee, the newest Club Sport, is a kids' game that has grown up.

Picture this: Two teams of seven players weave down a 60 by 40 yard field. One player catches the Frisbee, pivots and flings it toward a teammate.

The game brings back visions of the grade school playground at recess.

First, fouls are not called by a referee, but on an honor system. Ultimate Frisbee is not a high pressure, must-win sport, and not violent or crippling.

Second, the adoption of ultimate Frisbee as a Club Sport is part of a trend toward what are called play sports — games that encourage cooperation and participation while de-emphasizing competition and winning.

Third, there is no coach.

"We coach and assist each other," says Henry Callahan, club spokesperson. "Throwing a Fris-

bee is a sensation or feeling you can only try to describe to someone else."

Ultimate Frisbee became a Club Sport Oct. 5, and will receive \$300 for the 1978-79 fiscal year. They are required to add 10 percent (\$30) in addition to this amount through fund-raising activities.

"Getting Club Sport status has put us on cloud-nine," says Callahan.

He says he is now encouraging other Pac-10 schools to adopt Ultimate Frisbee as a Club Sport. In the meantime, the club will play matches against Washington State University and International Frisbee Association (IFA) clubs. Only one such club, the Eugene Windjammer Frisbee Club, exists in Oregon.

The game was invented on a parking lot at Columbia High School in Maplewood, N.J., nine years ago. It moved onto eastern college campuses in the early '70s and has rapidly swept west. It was created as a simple, inexpensive



Photos by Ed Warren

Ultimate Frisbee, the newest Club Sport, is non-violent and non-crippling. The adoption of the sport as a Club Sport is part of a growing movement that encourages cooperation and participation while de-emphasizing competition and winning.

Club Sports round-up



Handball

The handball club's first match of the year will be against Pacific University at Beaverton's Court Sports on Saturday.



Soccer

The men's soccer team travels north for two games this weekend.

Saturday they visit defending Northwest Collegiate Soccer Conference champion Simon Fraser in a 7:30 p.m. match and play Pacific Lutheran Sunday in a 2:00 p.m. encounter.

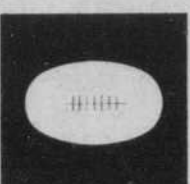
The women's team will host Whitman Sunday at Autzen Stadium at 11 a.m.



Skiing

The alpine and nordic ski teams are practicing each weekday from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. Women nordic skiers are especially needed.

For more information contact Randy Rogers, alpine coach, at 686-8147, or Dick Murray, nordic coach, at 345-6800.



Rugby

The Portland Jesters will test the Oregon's rugby club when they meet Saturday at Portland's Delta Park.



Equestrian

To complement the equestrian team which practices

Sundays at Shady Acres stable, a drill team is being organized.

The drill team, will practice Saturdays at the stables.

For more information contact Carl Stallings at 344-0612.



Fencing

The fencing club practices Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6:30 to 9 p.m. in 220 Gerlinger Hall.



Badminton

Practice for the badminton club is Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6 to 9 p.m. in the Gerlinger Hall basement.



Sailing

Team racing tactics will be the emphasis of Sunday's sailing team practice.



Bowling

The bowling club travels to Linn-Benton Community College in Albany Thursday afternoon for their first Oregon Collegiate Bowling League match.



Bicycling

There will be an organizational meeting for the cycling team today in the EMU at 5:30 p.m. All interested in racing or cycling in general should attend, or contact Paul Schwyhart at 689-4304.

and low key sport for the non-athlete.

"The people who play are not your run-of-the-mill jocks, but instead closet jocks who have found their sport," says Callahan. "But we've got good athletes, and real good frisbee players." Find a person who combines these two attributes and you've found a good player, he says.

The game is played on a 60 by 40 yard field. A gymnasium or football field are adequate, but soft grass is preferred. The end zones are 30 yards deep for catching the "long bomb" or short flick goals.

Each team has seven players with substitutions allowed when the Frisbee goes out-of-bounds or a goal is scored.

A game consists of 24-minute halves, with a 10 minute halftime.

The only other requirement for the game is a frisbee. Callahan says a 165 gram Frisbee is used for games.

The game bears resemblance to football, basketball and soccer. Like basketball, the Frisbee changes hands often and scoring is frequent. Like soccer, ultimate

Frisbee requires stamina, endurance and quick bursts of speed. Like football receivers and defensive backs, the players run patterns, such as the buttonhook, and play one-on-one zone defenses.

The best offensive strategy, Callahan says, combines the long and short, hard pass.

"We try not to bunch up," he says. "If we can get the defense one-on-one or wide open, we have a better chance of catching a pass and getting off a throw."

A diving catch, with body fully extended, arms outstretched and eyes glued to the spinning saucer, occurs frequently in ultimate Frisbee. Callahan says the name 'ultimate' expresses "what it's like when you make some of those diving catches."

"Getting parallel" to the playing surface is the correct technique for the dive, he says.

To play the game, one doesn't have to buy expensive equipment or learn fancy technique.

"You can be competitive at your own level," says Callahan. "The nature of the game brings out cooperation in people. Everybody

wants to have a good time and meet new friends."

"We hope to generate the same kind of spirit as rugby," Callahan added. After each game the host team throws a party for the visitors where talk centers around spectacular diving catches. New friends are met and cold beer revives sagging energy reserves.

Callahan sees ultimate Frisbee ten years from now as an intercollegiate sport. His prophecy is valid considering the game's low cost. Budget-starved athletic departments might be forced to adopt play sports in the future.

The trend toward play sports — sports that are fun, relaxing and participation-oriented — is evident in the Club Sport adoption of Ultimate Frisbee.

The team practices Tuesdays and Thursdays at Howe Field at 5:30 p.m. and plays on Saturdays. For more information call Callahan at 343-3039.

Besides a home and away series with WSU, the team will participate in the Northwest Regional Ultimate Frisbee Championships in Seattle in early November.

