

Escaping the summer school blues



The University's covered tennis courts on 15th Street are a great place to have a game and avoid a sunburn. Next door is Leighton Pool.

Eugene offers a variety of sports to ease the strains of summer classes

By JOHN HEALY
Of the Emerald

Eugene has an incredibly wide variety of spectator and participant sports for summertime residents and an equally large number of sports facilities for public use.

You can pick and choose among tennis, bowling, hiking, racquetball, swimming, running, biking and golfing. The list goes on endlessly.

For those with a little extra money this summer, a new athletic club in Eugene called CourtSports might be appealing. CourtSports I, located off Coburg Road near the Thunderbird Motel, features nine racquetball courts, two paddle tennis courts, a basketball court, volleyball courts, saunas, whirlpools, locker rooms and a full weight room. A regular membership in the club costs \$100 for the initial fee plus \$28.00 per month, which entitles you to full use of all the facilities.

For those short on money, there is still a broad range of facilities and activities that cost little or nothing, but won't include saunas, whirlpools and hair dryers in the locker room.

In fact, without leaving the University campus, you can find two running tracks, over 30 tennis courts, two swimming pools, two small bowling alleys with 16 lanes, a baseball and a softball field, indoor and outdoor basketball courts, and miles of sidewalks and lawns for running.

Following is a brief guide to summer sports activities in the Eugene area.

RUNNING

Eugene has worked hard to earn its label of "Track Capital of the World." Not only will you see what appears to be the entire populace out running day and night, but you will also find miles and miles of scenic running paths.

It all centers around the University's Hayward Field, site of the last two U.S. Olympic Trials and the recently announced location of the 1980 Trials. The track is simply one of the best in the country. From Hayward Field you can cross over the Willamette River and follow one of the loops of Pre's trail, named for the late Steve Prefontaine, an outstanding Oregon distance runner.

Pre's is a 6.3-kilometer running path paved with small wood chips and sawdust. Included is a parcourse with six exercise stations. If you tire of Pre's Trail, follow one of the bike paths along both banks of the Willamette. They extend from Springfield's city limits to as far west as the River Road area, a good ten miles of running roundtrip.

The Oregon Track Club holds two- and four-mile roadruns on the third Sunday of each month if you like to race. The runs begin at Alton Baker Park around 1:30 p.m. There is no entry fee, times are given as you finish and there are no awards. The club also sponsors a series of track races during the summer at Hayward Field. They are open to everyone and feature races for the slow and the fast.

The largest running equipment stores in the city are

The Running Company on Willamette Street, Sugar Pine Ridge located next to the University Bookstore and the Athletic Department in the Atrium building on the downtown mall.

BIKING

Bicycling is just as popular as running in Eugene. It's no wonder, considering the city has 50 miles of bikeways with another 100 miles planned. It's all the result of the Metropolitan Bikeway Master Plan, adopted in 1975 by Lane County and the cities of Eugene and Springfield.

Along the north and south banks of the Willamette are bike paths for bikes only. Spread throughout the city are clearly marked lanes for bicycles on every major thoroughfare. For an updated map of this system, go down to the Eugene Public Works Department (City Hall II, 858 Pearl St.). The map is free.

Willamette Valley Cycle Works at 663 E. 13th Ave. is one of the most popular campus bike shops, along with Collins Cycle Shop, 60 E. 11th Ave., and Hutch's Bicycle Store, 960 Charnelton St.

If you're interested in touring, the area around Veneta is one of the more scenic spots near Eugene. Take 11th Avenue west and follow it out to Fern Ridge Reservoir. From there, you decide which back road you want to bike.

BACKPACKING/HIKING

Two places brimming with information are the Outdoor Program at the University and the Willamette National Forest headquarters, located in the Federal Building in downtown Eugene.

The Outdoor Program is located in the bottom of the EMU. It takes a bit of looking to find the entrance (it's at the southeast corner of the EMU near the loading docks). The Outdoor Program is loaded with names, phone numbers, maps, catalogs, books and pamphlets that all relate to some aspect of the outdoors. They are extremely helpful if you need to find a hiking partner or want to find the best hiking trails in the area.

The forestry people at the Federal Building are just as helpful, and will load you down with maps and brochures on where to go, what to take, and what there is to see. One of their most useful maps is of the Willamette National Forest, which covers the area east of Eugene toward the Cascades. There are literally hundreds of good hiking paths, although you'll have to drive at least 30 miles to get to the good trails.

Berg's, at 367 W. 13th Ave., is a camping/hiking shop where you can feel free to ask questions. They have an extensive collection of topographic maps covering most of the state and especially Lane County.

SWIMMING POOLS AND SWIMMING HOLES
Eugene is blessed with a large enough number of public pools and swimming holes that you won't think you're on Coney Island or Hermosa Beach.

The Eugene Parks and Recreation Department operates four pools open to the general public, the

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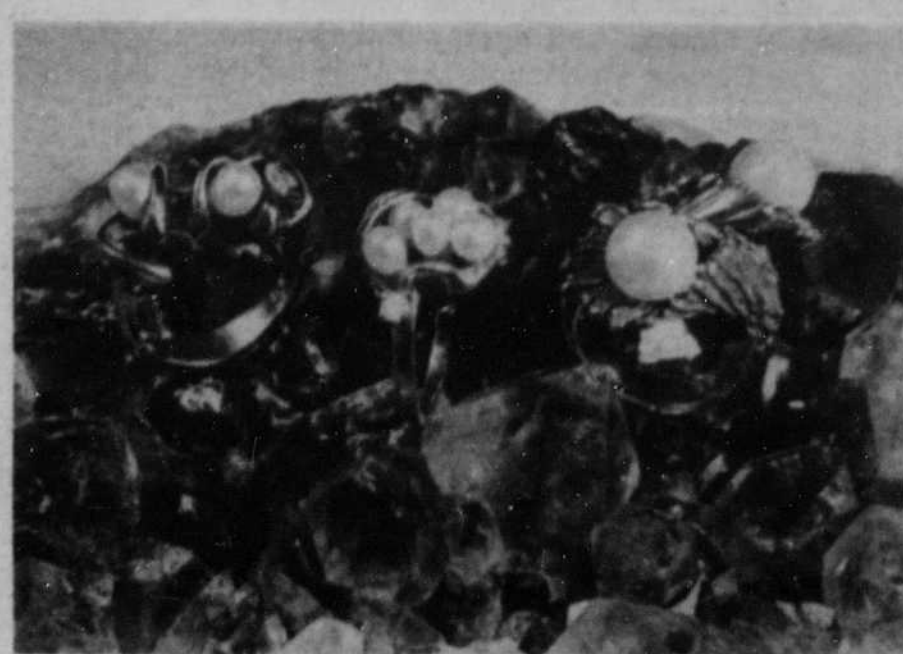
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