

yet," Briot says.

Although there are two women's divisions — an A and a B league — Briot says, "there isn't much difference between the two."

The Flakensteins have only nine players on the roster — seven below the league limit. Briot designed it that way to allow each woman more playing time.

The Flakensteins did not play in the regional or state tournament for city-league teams last season, but they beat the state tournament champ during the regular season, Briot says.

Professional players may play in summer leagues only. Also, university or junior

college team players can play only in the summer leagues. And those players who were cut, quit or red-shirted may play only in the AAU or A leagues during the winter season.

To qualify for competition in the over-30 league this season, a player must have reached 30 years of age by Jan. 1, 1981.

Teams may apply to play in any league, but the athletics supervisor has the final word in the placement.

And if teams are needed to fill a league, the top finishers in the league immediately below it may move up into that bracket of competition.

For a team to qualify as a Eugene team, it may not include more than three players

who live outside the city. Any team with four or more players who reside outside the city is classified as a Non-Eugene team.

A College team is any team which has more than three college students on its roster who are under 25 years old. College teams are restricted to the AAU or A leagues.

A team's classification may determine whether it can enter the league or not. Many teams are turned away each year because the league fills to capacity, Hessel says.

All Eugene teams, returning or new, have an equal opportunity to enter the league. If there are more teams than openings, a drawing is held to

determine which teams will be able to enter.

Returning teams are given registration priority, as long as it is a Eugene team with more than half of its players returning from the previous year. If fewer than half the players return, it would be treated as a new Eugene team.

EPRD games have four 13-minute quarters, with a one-minute rest between quarters. There is a five-minute half-time break.

Teams have five 30-second timeouts.

If the score is tied at the end of regulation playing time, there is a five-minute overtime. If the game is still tied after the five-minute overtime period, a second overtime is played and the team that scores the first basket wins.

If the official thinks the game is "no longer competitive," he can stop play.

Also, a team forfeits if it accumulates three technicals.

At the end of the regular season, if two teams in the same league finish with identical records, whichever

team beat the other in league play will finish higher in the standings. If more than two teams are tied, the standings are determined by the point-spread in the games between those teams.

The EPRD basketball code of conduct makes the league a very safe place to watch, play and officiate basketball.

A player can't "shove, push, threaten or lay a hand upon an official because of a decision made by the official during the game."

The penalty for striking an official — whatever the reason — is expulsion from the league.

The code also states, "No player shall physically attack, make threatening gestures toward, or strike an official, player or spectator." A similarly worded rule covers the use of abusive and vulgar language.

Anyone interested in playing city-league basketball this season should contact EPRD Athletics Supervisor Mary Kay Hessel at 687-5360.

**Story by Gabriel Boehmer
Photos by Dennis Tachibana**

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Low Riders

Continued from Page 3B

ketball and the brand Oregon's men's team plays. Passing, scoring and foul rules remain unchanged. Wheelchair ball allows five seconds in the key and there's no penalty for double dribble.

"Some people are pushing for a constant dribble rule," Faller says.

"Otherwise, it's college rules all the way."

There is one other difference that helps keep wheelchair teams competitive with each other, says Crandall. "A team can only have 12 points on the floor."

The points refer to the level of disability each player has. Those with no trunk balance are "one," those with some trunk imbalance and lower trunk impairment, "two," and amputees and those with total trunk balance, "three."

"There can be no more than three threes on the floor — max," Crandall says. "And you

have to field five starters. This just makes it (wheelchair basketball) more open to the various handicaps.

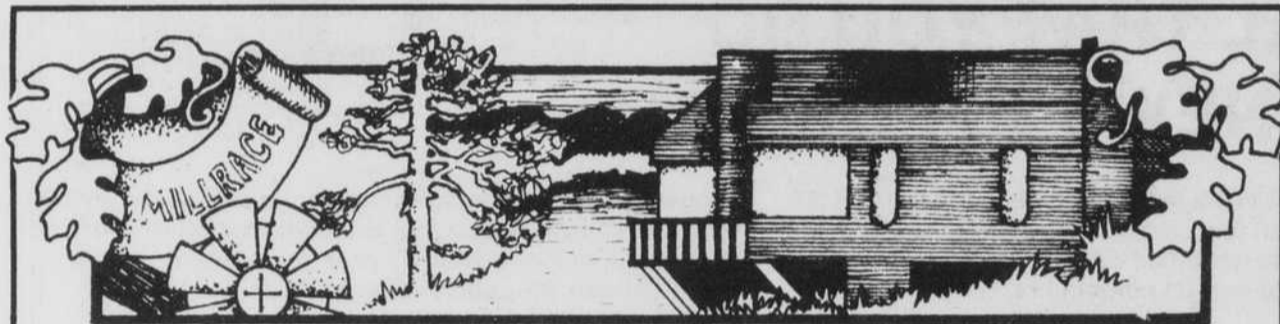
"The preamble to the wheelchair sports rule book states that wheelchair sports exist to provide an opportunity to play sports — for everyone," Crandall says.


The Low Riders are just one extension of the local effort to provide sports for the handicapped, Faller says. "We allow recreational capabilities for the entire handicapped population."

Wheelchair basketball provides an alternative to the Easter Seal stereotype, Faller says. "We learn how to compete in life by competing in games."

"Every he man in his younger days, including myself, played football. Wheelchair basketball provides the same thing — competition."

**Story By Tamara Swenson
Photos by Martha Stanton**





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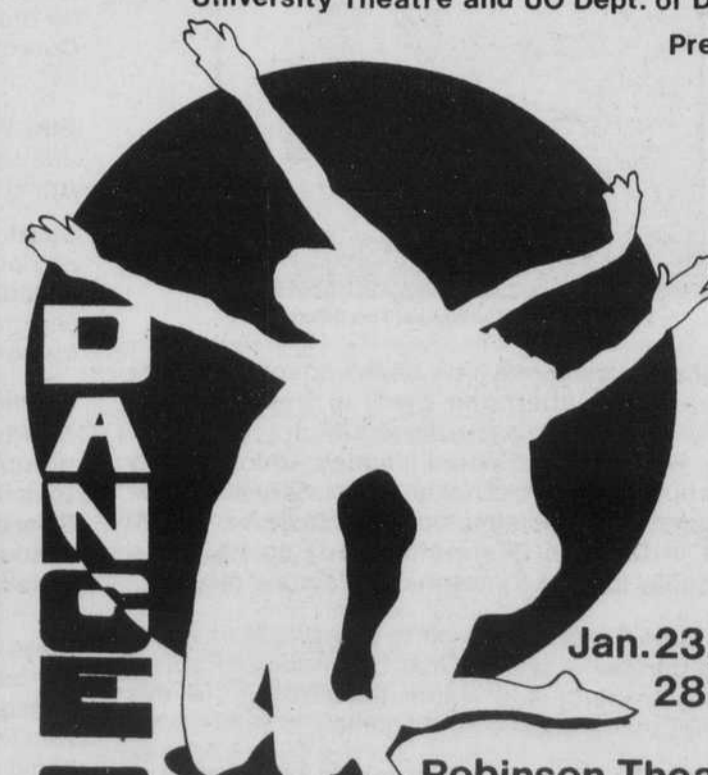
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