

State may cut support

Subcommittee puts athletics fifth on hit list

A set of sharp shears were wielded at state support of athletics Tuesday as a Joint Ways and Means education subcommittee placed the \$700,000 support for intercollegiate athletics fifth on its list of items to cut from the governor's budget request.

The subcommittee chairer, Jim Gardner, D-Portland, said it is almost certain support of intercollegiate athletics at the seven state-supported colleges and universities will be eliminated.

The University's share of the state funds is \$134,000, according to Ray Hawk, University vice president for administration and finance.

The subcommittee's recommendations total 10 percent of higher education's share of Gov. Vic Atiyeh's budget request.

Optimistically, only 6 percent will have to be cut, Gardner said to Emerald Salem correspondent Greg Wasson. But intercollegiate athletic support is placed in the top 3 percent. "Barring someone coming in and giving the state \$30 million," athletics will be cut, Gardner said.

"We have to plan on that help (for intercollegiate athletics) not being there," Hawk said Tuesday evening. "Of course that's not final (the subcommittee recommendation)... but it's obvious to me that the additional cuts have to be made in our budget or additional funds have to be found."

The subcommittee's recommendation comes on the heels of a cut in the women's gymnastics program — no scholarships will be allowed — and talk of further cuts, including reduction of the men's track and field budget. Henriette Heiny, the women's gymnastics coach, says she will resign.

"There's no question that drastic measures must be taken," Hawk said. "Track and field is one of the most popular sports... but track and field is also one of the more costly programs."

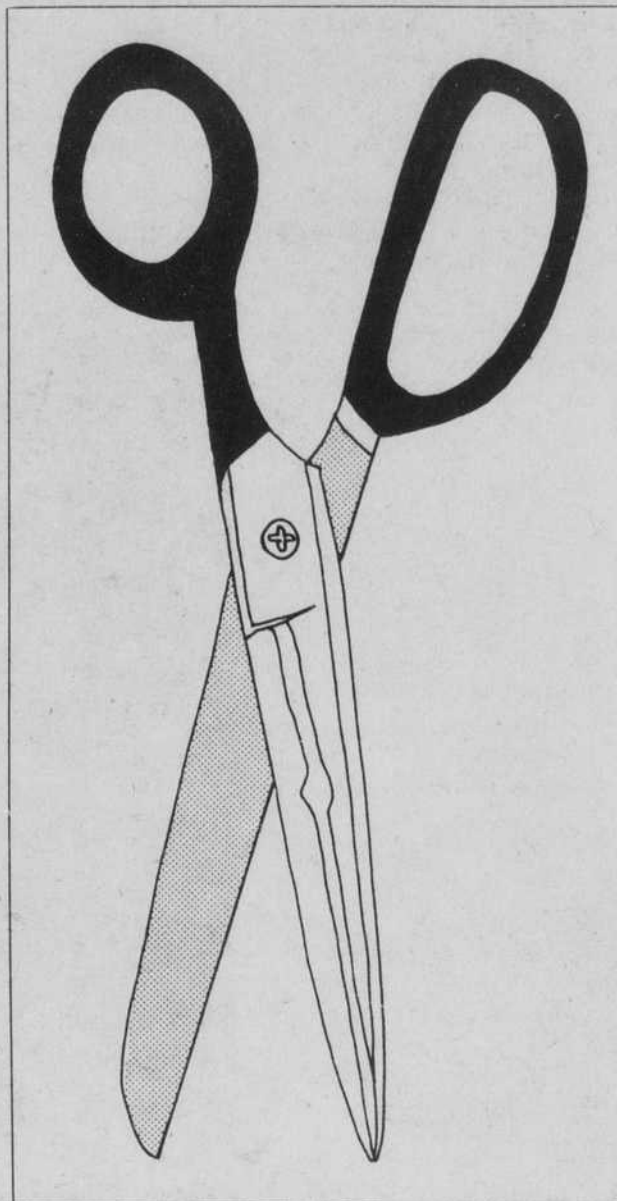
"If you think people are upset now about cuts, think of what the reaction will be to cuts in Eugene's favorite sport," he said.

Almost \$1 million has been reduced from the athletic department budget of \$5 million by eliminating baseball, men's gymnastics, women's soccer and women's golf, as well as 28 percent of the department's administrative and support staff budget.

"Close to \$1 million has already been cut," said Hawk. "That's 20 percent of the entire athletic department budget. We all say that if the University cuts 10 percent (from its budget) it's a disaster."

"But we've already doubled that in the athletic budget."

Faced with a funding drop of \$134,000, the athletic department will either have to cut the



Graphic by Sioux Anderson

money or raise it, said Hawk. "I don't believe we've exhausted all the possible revenue sources. However, they still have to be located."

Hawk also confirmed Tuesday that all women's gymnastics scholarships will be eliminated as the athletes graduate, and that its coaching position would be reduced to half-time. The sport will receive minimal financial support and be allowed only to travel in the Northwest.

Volleyball will become a prioritized sport, following basketball and track in the women's athletic program.

The decision to de-emphasize gymnastics has been met grimly by the women's gymnastics team, said coach Heiny. "I feel this was made behind our backs."

Heiny said she felt the decision was politically based, but refused to comment further on the issue. "I've said too much already."

The decision to cut gymnastics further and emphasize volleyball is clouded by the dual role played by Chris Voelz, volleyball coach and one of the three assistant athletic directors charged with running the athletic department.

Voelz was purposefully excluded from the decision process about which sport to emphasize, said Hawk. It was deemed improper for her to assist in a decision that would effect her program. Voelz was not available for comment Tuesday.

"We wanted to emphasize a men's and a women's sport each quarter," said Hawk. "For men it is football, basketball and track. For women it is volleyball, basketball and track."

By Tamara Swenson

Soccer squad snags title from defending champs

Sweeping past five opponents, the men's club sport soccer team claimed the tournament title at the Humboldt State Invitational over the weekend.

The Duck men defeated the Eugene All-Stars 3-1 to win the title.

"It was a real team effort," said center forward Bruce Palmbaum. "Everyone contributed. We played as a team the entire tournament."

The Duck's outscored their opponents 15-3 in their grab for the championship, taking the title away from the three-time defending champion Eugene All-Star team.

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