

# Board to monitor athletes

By Mike Sims  
Of the Emerald

The seven Oregon State System of Higher Education institutions that field intercollegiate athletic teams will soon begin preparing reports on academic performance and progress by student-athletes.

Chancellor Bud Davis reminded the State Board of Higher Education Friday that it adopted a set of rules and regulations governing athletics at system schools in March 1983.

One of these rules requires that institution presidents submit annual athlete academic progress reports to the board. Davis told the board that it would begin receiving this year's reports in October or November.

But Dick Perry, associate vice chancellor for administration, said Wednesday that because of the amount of time necessary to prepare questionnaires and compile results, the reports would probably be presented to the board Nov. 16 when it meets at the University.

Perry said that the reports, which according to board policy are designed to show athlete success in pursuing academic goals, would contain average grade point averages and rates of graduation among student-athletes. He also said that comparisons of athletes' average GPAs against those of general student populations could be included in the reports if such data becomes available.

Board policy requires that college and university presidents establish policies and procedures committing student-athletes and athletic officials to the goals of maintaining "normal progress" toward completing a baccalaureate degree. Degrees should ("usually") be attained in no more than five years after an athlete enrolls in a school for the first time.

Athletes are required to carry a minimum 12-hour course-load during their respective sport seasons. These courses must lead to a baccalaureate degree of the student-athlete's choice and comply with regular institution academic progress rules and graduation requirements.

"I think these are reasonable expectations," Perry said of board academic standards for student-athletes. "But we also realize that many people leave school for a variety of reasons — illness, work, and the like. Many non-athletes don't finish in five years."

The board also directed institutions to develop and use academic monitoring systems and, where necessary, corrective measures for marginal academic performance by athletes.

The National Collegiate Athletic Association has similar academic eligibility requirements for its member schools, and also requires that student-athletes declare an academic major by the junior year. The University, Oregon State and

Portland State universities are NCAA members.

The remaining system schools that offer intercollegiate athletics are members of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics and the Evergreen Conference.

According to Perry, NAIA academic requirements differ from NCAA rules in that student-athletes must attain degrees in 15 terms, not necessarily in succession. Perry again acknowledged that many students must leave school periodically to work toward funding their education. And according to WOSC Athletic Director Jack Rye, the Evergreen Conference prohibits scholarship awards based solely on athletic ability.

Rye also says that the NAIA allows individual conferences to adopt more specific academic standards. In addition to national regulations, the Evergreen Conference requires student-athletes to earn a minimum 2.0 GPA.

## Skylight offering new atmosphere

The EMU Skylight has taken on a new look this year with a different cuisine and tablecloths in "an attempt to generate interest," in the Skylight, according to James Covington, director of food service at the EMU.

From 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., tablecloths cover the tables to change a typical campus study place into a restaurant atmosphere. Students can enjoy calzone, lasagne and other Italian food, as well as the Greek sandwich and the salad bar.

"The Skylight used to be primarily known as a vegetarian area, but the demand for that has dropped off to a point where our income has been dropping off also for the past couple years," Covington says.

"Because of its size, it's an expensive area to maintain, but we won't know until the end of fall term if it's going to work or not. If not, we'll have to try something else," he says.

By changing the atmosphere for a few hours a day, Covington hopes to satisfy both the needs of those studying and those who are looking for a nice place to have lunch.

"Students have been cooperating really well so far. I think they understand what we're trying to do," Covington says.



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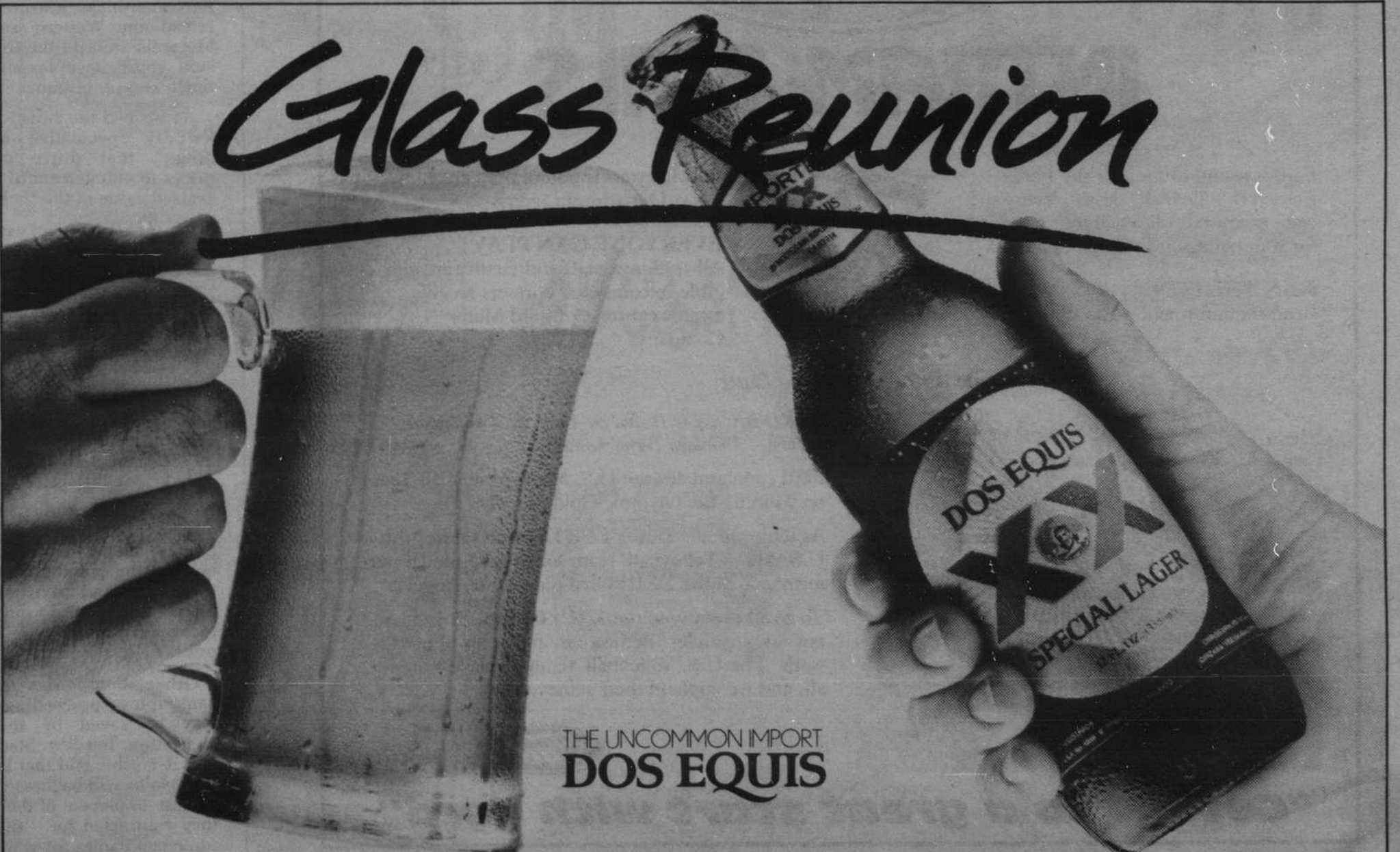
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