Waiting for transplant hard

KLAMATH FALLS (AP) — A 20-year-old Klamath Falls man who underwent a heart-lung transplant says the waiting was the hardest part.

"The wait was the hardest part of the whole thing," said Monty Baxter, who returned home last weekend nearly three months after receiving a new heart and lungs at the Stanford University Hospital.

"Once I got my call to go to surgery, the wait was over. We knew when we could go home."

Baxter said he was sorry the operation forced him to miss deer hunting season, but he was playing golf and racquetball and looking forward to shooting waterfowl.

That was quite a change from

two years ago, when he was unable to keep up with fellow students in physical education classes at Klamath Union High School.

He was diagnosed as suffering from pulmonary hypertension, or high blood pressure in the blood vessels of the lungs.

In January he traveled with his mother, April Baxter, to Palo Alto, Calif., to be close to the hospital while waiting for a donor. In July he underwent six hours of surgery.

"When I went down there I was really scared about it," Baxter said. "But once I got down there and started talking to the doctors, everything just seemed to work out the way we hoped in the beginning. But we really didn't know if it would."

Interest in ROTC growing

College backgrounds may prepare some people for work in the private sector, but others march to the beat of a different drum.

One alternative is the Reserve Officer Training Corps program, a division of the army that trains college students for a military career, says senior Steve Hansen. And student interest in the program is growing, Hansen says.

Approximately 150 students are involved with ROTC in some capacity at the University, he says. Twenty-five percent of them are women.

What ROTC does, Hansen says, is emphasize teamwork and leadership. "We are not here to carry rifles but to learn to lead and manage," he says.

Cadets are in charge of the campus program to learn and teach the basic skills of an officer in the military — leading, organizing and conducting training.

"The emphasis is to produce high-tech

qualified personnel," he says.

Any student can enter the first two years of the program through the University's military science department without commitment to the military, Hansen says. If students continue in the program into their third year of college, they must decide whether or not to contract with the army, he says.

At this point the student under contract with the army can opt for either the National Guard or the United States Army Reserve, he

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The student also can apply for army scholarships that can run for up to four years.

Students completing the program enter the service with the rank of second lieutenant, he says. Thirty-one seniors and 34 juniors make up the program's leadership this year, Hansen says.

Any student interested in the ROTC program or scholarships can visit the ROTC office at 1679 Agate St.







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