Centre offers a variety of equine delights

By Amy Moss Of the Emerald

While many people dream of owning horses, Sue Pruitt lives that dream and makes it possible for others to enjoy horses too.

Pruitt owns and runs Pruitt's Equestrian Centre in Lorane, about 20 miles southwest of Eugene.

The Centre, which boasts 60 horses, offers lessons in both Western and English riding styles through the University Riding Program. Class levels

range from beginning to advanced, and they're held in a large indoor arena which is also used for barn dances and horse shows.

"Most arenas are not as big as this," says Pruitt. "Ours is nice because you can have a large class and not feel crowded."

Horse shows are held every month at the arena and are open to anyone in the area. They are judged by both local and outside experts. The shows include equestrian and pleasure showing. Equestrian is more formal

and involves the riders being judged for their style and how well they handle the horse, while pleasure focuses primarily on the horse and how well it performs.

"The skills we teach here are often applied to the show ring," says Pruitt, "And many of the University students have won awards here.'

Pruitt has owned horses for 22 years. Six years ago, she got involved in renting them and giving lessons. "It was either make money with the horses, or get rid of them," she explains.

Pruitt began by teaching 4-H classes, and worked her way up to teaching classes at Lane Community College. This year she won the bid for the University riding program. Pruitt is also buying the land that the arena is located on from the University foundation.

Pruitt feels that the horse world is especially

good for young people because it gives them a chance to get away from their studies and enjoy the outdoors while getting exercise.

Shelley Bramble, a University freshman, is an advanced rider who comes to the arena as often as she can to ride Tyree, an Egyptian Arabian horse. "I really like this place because it gives me a chance to get away." she says.

Junior Sarah Chantz, a health education major, takes beginning Hunt seat lessons on Saturdays. She says that she."wanted to get a form of exercise," and

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valuable to the football. program.

According to Baker, he'd been offered other jobs, but turned them down.

"There is something very special about Bill Byrne, this community, and the staff here." says Baker.

The position as head of the Duck Athletic Fund is a demanding one. Baker must be a super salesman for not just the school, but for the community as a whole.

"To a lot of people, we've been known as the University of Eugene," says Baker. "We've been extending to alums throughout the state.' The Athletic Department is a visible

part of the whole community. We're as proud of our athletics as we are of academics. We represent everybody."

The system Byrne and Baker are utilizing seems to be work- ... ing. Donations doubled after they began working together in. 1983 going from half a million dollars to a million. Now donations are up to \$1.2 million. The "Quack Attack" campaign they initiated certainly helped as did the major marketing program. undertaken in the Portland area by Byrne.

The donations and the contributors are out there to be located: And according to Byrne, "The biggest sin is not to. ask."

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Badminton Singles - Plan now to enter the badminton singles tournament scheduled for Saturday, November 3 at 10:00 a.m. There are two divisions of play for men and women. There is an open division for experienced players and a novice division for players who never played in a tournament or have little experience. Come to 103 Gerlinger and pick up an entry. There is no entry fee for this tournament. Get in on the fun!

Volleyball Deadline Extended - Late entries are being accepted for the Ford Bronco II Intramural Volleyball in Men's and Women's Divisions. Entries will be accepted until 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, October 25. Winning teams in each division win Ford Bronco long-sleeved t-shirts. Sign up now!

3 x 3 Basketball - Start now to get into the All American winter favorite -Basketball. Sign up a team for the 3 x 3 league. Games will be played on Mondays and Wednesdays from 4:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. The season, including playoffs, will be three to four weeks in length.

Intramural Cross Country - The course will be approximately 2.5 miles in length. A team will consist of a minimum of four people. There will be a women's division, a men's division, and a coed division (coed teams must have a minimum of 2 men and 2 women). The top three people in men's and women's teams score for the team. The top 2 men and top 2 women in coed teams score for the team. Teams may have any number of runners. Individuals may sign up the day of the race. Check at the RIM office for starting time and details.



Showing is just one of the horserelated skills to be learned and enjoyed at Sue Pruitt's equestrian facility and arena near Lorane.

> adds that it is "nice to get out in the country."

In addition to the riding programs, the Centre offers trail rides, hay rides and cookouts. There is also a horse lease program and pack trips into the wilderness.

Pruitt is in the process of raising horses to be used for pleasure and for working with cattle. But she says she is hoping to increase the load of University students attending the Centre this year as well.

"I love-to work with people." says Pruitt. "So this place is a dream come true for me."

Intramural Wrestling - This meet will be held on November 5 and 6. Entry forms and details are available at 103 Gerlinger. The entry deadline is Monday, November 5.

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Sat-Sun	9:00 am-7:00 pm								



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Wednesday, October 24, 1984

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