

Water polo teams rolling again

By Allan Lazo
Of the Emerald

What one sport combines the strategies of basketball with a goalie like soccer and the hockey power-play? Oh yeah, and is played in the water?

You guessed it — water polo, and according to Russ Desiderio, coach of the Oregon women's Club Sports water polo team, water polo is "growing and doing very well in Oregon."

The Club Sports women's team is in its first year, and a men's team was resurrected this year by Desiderio after a two-year layoff. Prior to the two-year break in action, the men's program had been running strong for four years.

The men's team has their main competitive season in the fall, but the team was started too late to make it to the competitions. However, the heavy competitive action for the women will be coming in the spring.

The Oregon team, according to Desiderio, is the only women's collegiate team in the state, and they will be matched up mostly with club teams composed of community and high school members.

The women's team is also hoping to make its way to a collegiate tournament with teams from California scheduled during the first weekend of May in Berkeley.

Currently, Desiderio says, he has "seen a total of 20 different faces" for the men's and women's team practices, but he would like to have about 14 members on both squads.

One of the problems in getting numbers is that it is difficult to participate on the water polo club team and also swim competitively for the Oregon swim team at the same time, says Helga Lasschuijt, co-ordinator of the women's water polo team and member of the Oregon swimming

team. She thinks once the men's swimming season is over, more people will be able to come out for the team.

Lasschuijt started playing water polo two and a half years ago when she moved from the eastern part of Holland to the western part where the sport was more popular.

In Holland, she says, the sport is considerably more popular than here. On her team in Holland, Lasschuijt says, there were 20 members on her team, and all of the private swim clubs have their own teams.

Lasschuit says she came to Oregon thinking there was a water polo team, but when she got here, there wasn't one. So she started the Club Sports team and asked Desiderio to be their coach.

Desiderio played water polo in high school, four years in college and was the women's water polo coach at Stanford University before coming to the University.

During spring term, Desiderio will be teaching a water polo class that will be offered through the physical education department.

"The class will teach everything. We will teach the fundamentals: dribbling the ball, treading water using the egg-beater kick, throwing, catching, the straight fundamentals, so even if somebody has a swimming background, this is the way to learn. That is why we are having the class. We will also be doing scrimmaging," he says, adding that the class will be a sort of lead-in or feeder for the Club Sports team.

Desiderio also says the class will be a chance for people who need to improve their swimming skills because having good swimming skills is a big advantage, he says. "Definitely, the more, the better," Desiderio says of swimming experience.

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reputation and played it to the hilt. After public address announcer Don Essig prompted the crowd, CBS cued up the pep band as the show went on the air.

CBS did a good job portraying both the crowd and the University. They opened with shots of 13th Avenue bustling with students during a Friday class break. A shot of Mac Court through the trees

of Pioneer Cemetery added a visually pleasing view. Shots of some live ducks on the mill race doing the unmentionable (yes, Spring Fever hits early in the animal kingdom) added a humorous touch.

If you thought the production of a basketball telecast is simple and smooth, CBS proved other-

wise. It's ugly, with frequent screaming and profanities heard between the producer, Chyron operator and camera-people. Ugly yet interesting.

In all, the broadcast went off without a hitch. One improvement should be made before CBS visits again. CBS needs to be reminded this is "Ory-gun" and "Ore-gone." Oh well, maybe next time.

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Weiss says there are two ways to view sports psychology. One way is to look at the factors that will enhance a person's performance, such as reducing anxiety. The other is to examine how participation in sports affects the psychological makeup of the individual.

It is the latter view that Weiss has concentrated on in her research work, most of which has dealt with the effects of sports competition on children's social and psychological development.

There are about 35 to 40 million children between the ages of 5 and 18 who participate in nonschool, league sports in this country, Weiss says.

"With that many children participating there is the potential for a lot of good things to happen," she says. "Kids can learn a lot through sports."

"But by the same token, if (children's) sports are not conducted appropriately... negative ex-

periences can happen too." Weiss has sought to combat this problem by acting as the state director of the American Coaching Effectiveness Program, a national program that is specifically designed for coaches who volunteer for organized sports programs.

She commends those who give up their free time to coach, but says she is concerned that most of these volunteers don't have any background in physical education or child development areas.

"It's a whole different ballgame in how you teach sports skills to children," Weiss says. "In other words, the child is not a miniature adult."

"Unfortunately, in our society, the most visible coaches are those at the collegiate and professional levels, and that style of coaching is not appropriate for children. Sometimes when we do not have a background in a specific area we tend to imitate or emulate those that are most visible, thinking that's maybe the right way."

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