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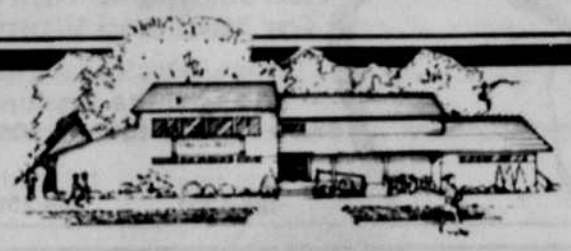

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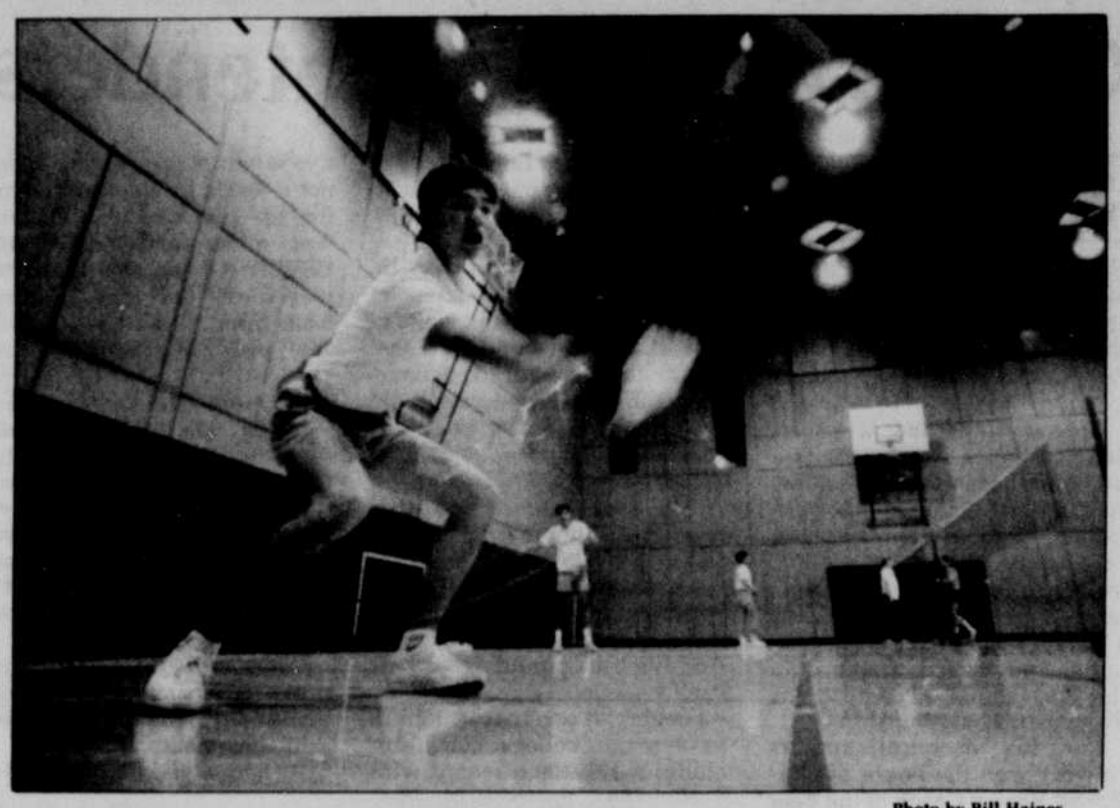

Photo by Bill Haines

Competitive badminton bears little resemblance to its backyard namesake. Club sports players like George Man, above, must have speed, coordination, and power.

Badminton Club promotes competition

By Barb Rogers
Emerald Contributor

Badminton is the second most popular sport in Singapore, according to Khim NG, one of the University Badminton Club's coaches and a previous Singaporean national player. Yet, in the United States, Badminton has not received as much popularity as in other European or Asian countries, prompting the University Badminton Club to promote it as a competitive sport.

Lily Tong, co-coordinator of the University Badminton Club, describes badminton as being as "equally streneous as tennis but a faster game requiring quicker response."

Ben Luk, also a club coordinator, added that "timing and hand-eye coordination is more important in badminton than muscular strength." By international standards, badminton is considered to be the second-fastest Olympic Game.

The badminton club was started here as a club sport in the 1978-79 school year and is into its "third generation" of participants. One of the club's coaches, Ken McWilliams, has been with the club since the beginning.

Currently a teacher at South Eugene High School, McWilliams volunteers much of his spare time to coach for the club. Along with McWilliams' experience, the club is fortunate to have Khim NG, who has won various titles throughout the season.

The badminton club is a member of the Oregon Intercollegiate Badminton League, which also includes OSU and PSU. Every fall, the club travels to and participates in competitions sponsored by the league.

The team also travels to Portland and other out-of-state open tournaments, including the "Turkey Shoot," "Oregon Open" and "Rose Festival" competitions. For members, the entry fees and transportation are provided by the club.

The Oregon Competition, in which the best Oregon badminton players will compete, will be held in Eugene this spring. The University's badminton coaches, McWilliams and Tong, have been the men's and women's single champions, and Tong also holds the women's doubles title.

The club held a badminton exhibition Oct. 8th in the Gerlinger Annex b-54 gym. The exhibition was open to all interested, displaying the top players in both singles and doubles. The aim of the event was to promote interest among every level to participate in the club. Interested players were asked to bring rackets and actually participate.

CLUB SPORTS U O

The badminton club emphasizes the recreational aspect of the sport, along with participation in the various tournaments throughout the season.

This spring the club hopes to organize and host a campus tournament that will provide University students with an oppurtunity to test their badminton skills.

The badminton club practices every Saturday from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. in Gerlinger Annex 350 or b-54.

CLUB SPORTS SCOREBOARD

Men's Soccer won Oct. 10 in a close game against U of Idaho: 1-0.

Men's Soccer also won its previous game on Oct. 3rd against OSU: 3-2

Men's Rugby played Oct. 11 against the Eugene City Team and won a surprising victory of 20-16.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Woman's Soccer travels to U. of Washington Oct. 18

Men's Soccer travels to U. of Idaho Oct. 17

Men's Rugby travels to Corvallis to participate, along with 30 other teams, in the annual "Beaver-Bowl" this weekend.

The Sailing Team is holding 6-7 hour instructional/recreational sailing classes open to all at Dexter Reservoir for the next three weekends.

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