

Sports

University ski team bides time waiting for snow

By Barbara Rogers
Emerald Contributor

As the days grow shorter and the air gets colder, the University's alpine and nordic ski teams eagerly await the first heavy snowfall. Even without the white stuff, fundraising and training keep the teams busy.

Currently the alpine team has about 50 active members. The nordic team also has its largest turnout ever, with about 20 active members. Both teams have increased in skill and strength, according to team members.

"Since the amount of quality skiers has increasingly improved in the last few years, we have established a B team. The B team will serve as a developmental team and provide coaching, training and opportunities to compete for new members who may not make the A team," said sophomore team member Aaron Zarosinski.

The alpiners only allow the top five men and the top five women plus two alternates on their A team. This team traditionally has been the traveling team, and the skiers who compete in the divisional and regional races. Now, the B team also will travel and compete in as many races as possible.

Jim Malmgren, alpine team coordinator and coach, said he wishes to "increase the overall racing skills of the team in order to be competitive with nationally ranked teams like College of Idaho and other top schools in the Northwest Ski Conference, where skiing is a varsity sport."

The nordic team competes in a 5,000-meter relay, which consists of a three-person team, and in the Open Event where up to six individuals can compete

volunteer coaches this year: Malmgren, from Colorado; Rick Roberts, from Mt. Hood; and Geir Skaaden, from Norway.

Skaaden, a transfer student, previously has been a ski coach in Norway and wanted to get involved with the ski program here. As a collegiate coach, Skaaden believes the hardest aspect of ski coaching is to help skiers attain their individual potentials.

The nordic team has two volunteer coaches, Margolin and Tommy Aunan, a Norwegian transfer student and top nordic racer. They also have been coached under the expertise of guest coaches — former Olympian and World Cup skier Bill Koch and Leslie Kritchko, a nationally ranked U.S. nordic team member.

Before the ski team even hits the slopes, the members have to be physically and mentally strong. The dry land practices began the second week in October and are held four times a week for about two hours a day. After a month of soccer, "explosion" drills and circuit training, the members either have dropped out or become dedicated to the team.

As a club sport, the ski team not only is concerned with getting in shape. The 70-member team faces the problem that all growing club sports do: they must raise a great deal of money through fundraisers.

The teams receive an annual stipend of \$4,000 from ASUO funds, but the team must earn almost double that amount on



from each men and women's teams in a 10- to 15,000-meter race. Alex Margolin, the nordic team coordinator and coach, is excited about the large turnout of strong nordic skiers.

"We definitely have the strength to have a good showing at the regional championships," Margolin said.

The alpine team has three

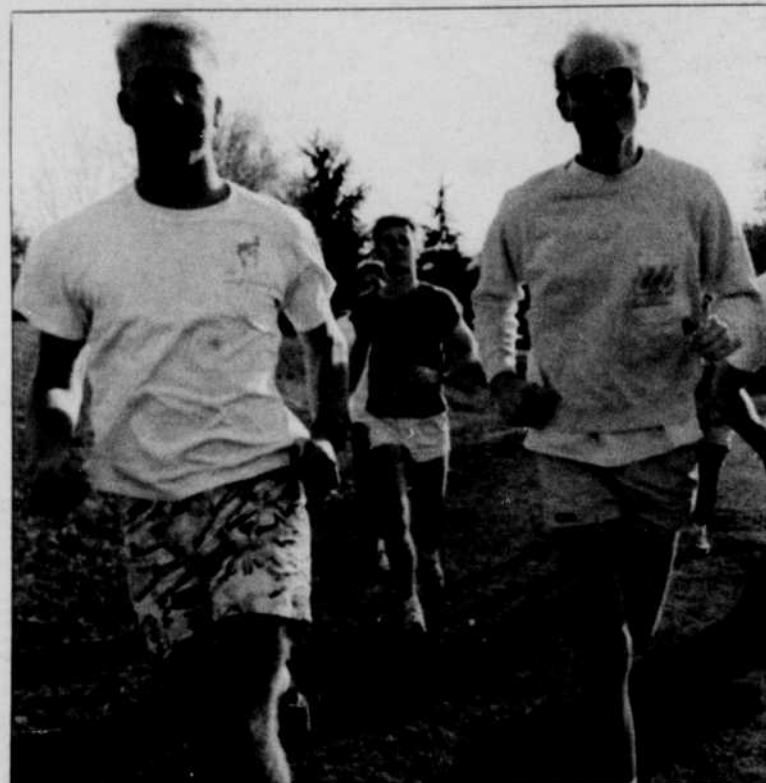


Photo by Andre Ranieri

For the University ski team, the training doesn't stop just because the snow is not falling. Mike Lee (l) and ski team organizer Jim Malmgren (r) plow the track during "Sunrise to Sunset Run."

its own. All of the fundraisers are held before winter term, which means each week a new project is underway.

The team already has sold more than 300 coupon books, and members had to pay a newly initiated membership fee.

Last weekend the ski team held the first annual "Sunrise to Sunset Run." Each member sent out letters to friends and relatives asking for pledges to support the team. The members ran last Saturday, from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., at the Harris Grade School track. The running was done at intervals, allowing members to rest.

On Wednesday the ski team will be having its third annual Ski Swap from 4 until 9 p.m. in the EMU Fir Room. The public is invited to bring in any ski equipment and/or clothing for consignment from 4 until 5 p.m., and the team will try to sell it.

A raffle ticket drawing will be held at 8 p.m. The raffle tickets currently are being sold for a \$1 donation outside the EMU Fishbowl.

According to Connie Selberg,

a veteran team member and coordinator of the swap, "the Ski Swap gives the public and students a convenient way to buy and sell ski equipment, along with helping the University ski program. This year we have incorporated the raffle in hopes of increasing the success of the Ski Swap as a fundraiser."

CLUB SPORTS SCOREBOARD:
Women's soccer ended its fall season with a 7-1 victory over Evergreen.

Women's rugby, a new club sport this year, had its first victory ever, defeating Oregon State 18-0.

The men's bowling team upset Oregon State in its civil war match last Thursday in Corvallis. High scorers were Brice Wilson (213 and 219), Attila Cseh (214), Mike Myhrvold (210).

The women's bowling team dropped a 16-12 decision to Oregon State Nov. 5 in Corvallis. High scorers for Oregon were Virginia Olson (211), and Tami Nelson (205 and 188).

UPCOMING EVENTS:
Nov. 11, University ski team holds its 3rd annual Ski Swap, 4-9 p.m. in the EMU Fir Room.
Nov. 14, water polo tournament, 10:30 a.m. at Leighton Pool.

Nov. 14, crew travels to the Frost Bite Regatta, in Seattle.

Nov. 14, men's rugby travels to Washington State and Idaho State for weekend matches.

Nov. 15, crew travels to the Head of the Lake Regatta, in Seattle.

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