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## Sports

# Facilities give youngsters outlet

By Cam Sivesind  
Emerald Sports Reporter

Eugene Mayor Jeff Miller's plan to improve recreational facilities in Eugene could do a lot of good for the community and its youth.

As part of his three-part plan for the city, Miller hopes to improve worn-down facilities



## From the Sidelines

and add some new recreation for Eugene youngsters.

This is a smart move on Miller's part.

Focusing a youth's attention on recreational activities and athletics after school and after studies can do no harm. A child using athletics as a way of venting school or other frustrations is much more positive than a child using drugs.

But Eugene's facilities appear ragged because of overuse. There are simply too many active youths per facility. Fields, gyms, playgrounds, and parks are overcrowded.

The problem reaches more than just the generic term "youth." Youth means grade school kids, high school students and University students.

The University has a similar facility shortage problems that can be compared to the big picture in Eugene. Anyone who has tried to find a pick-up basketball game on an indoor court on campus knows what I mean.

A person making a trip over to the Esslinger basketball courts any day or night of the week will find a swarm of bodies all waiting to get in a game.

It is not uncommon that for a person to

have to wait an hour or more before getting to see any court action. When 50 people are waiting on one court and only 10 of them can be playing at once, it is easy to see the problem.

Intramurals also take up court time. If one is not on an intramural team, he or she must wait for a few hours until the courts are open.

The problem is not quite so bad when the weather is tolerable, but this is Oregon and it is not hard to figure out the shortage problem.

With the only indoor courts at Gerlinger Annex and Esslinger, demand far outweighs supply. And basketball is not the only sport courts are used for. Volleyball, indoor soccer and others require court time.

Other benefits of Miller's plan for Eugene are easy to see.

Companies looking at Eugene as a possible business venture take many aspects of the community into account before making a final decision. The condition of recreational facilities and the availability of those facilities to employees and their families are a concern.

And what about little league sports groups and organizations in the community?

Fields in poor condition may cause injuries, and the lack of fields or other facilities can cause some serious scheduling headaches.

The main problem is funding. Who is going to pay for all of this?

I, for one, would be more than happy to pay a few extra tax dollars to see the youth of Eugene have a positive outlet at their reach. Using community volunteers is also an option, especially for facility improvement projects.

Little league organizations have been required to provide facility maintenance in the past and should be called on to do so in the future. If fields and other recreational areas continue to deteriorate, a system to monitor these organizations and facilities needs to be installed.

I applaud Miller's idea for Eugene and hope that the plan is followed through. Eugene will benefit if it does.

# Terzian named MVP for netters

Senior outside hitter Melissa Terzian was named Oregon's Most Valuable Player at Sunday's annual awards brunch at the Stadium Club in Autzen Stadium.

Terzian, a 5-foot-9 native of Altadena, Calif., was third on the team in kills (257), first in digs (315) and second in service aces (43) in helping the Ducks to the NCAA tournament

with a 21-9 record, including a 10-8 Pac-10 mark.

Freshman Gretchen Hughes was named Newcomer of the Year while sophomore Mindee Adams earned the Most Improved Player Award.

Also receiving recognition were senior Stephanie Snyder (captain's award for the second consecutive season) and senior

Denise Kuhn (Esper Ritchey Community Service Award), Snyder and Sophomore Dawnn Charroin shared the Mental Toughness-Extra Effort Award.

Oregon rebounded from a dismal 1988 season to win a berth in the NCAA tournament in 1989. The Ducks lost in the first round of the Tourney to Arizona by a 9-15, 7-15, 12-15 score.

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