

INTOUCH

with Club Sports

Thursday, April 12, 1990

Oregon Daily Emerald

Advertising Supplement



Photo by Andre Ranieri

Ice hockey, which is played at Lane County Ice at the Fairgrounds, was added to the Club Sports program just this year.

Exercise your athletic options with the Club Sports program

It's sad but true: For every star athlete in college sports, there are probably about 50 hopeful souls who love to compete, but can't quite do it at the level of a Terrell Brandon or a Stefanie Kasperski.

An attractive option for those with the potential for neargreatness is the University's Club Sports program. Designed to bridge the gap between intramural sports and intercollegiate activities, Club Sports allows University students to compete in sports ranging from ultimate frisbee to bowling to baseball.

Sandy Vaughn, the recreation coordinator of Club Sports, has been at the job for 15 years and has seen the program go through a few drastic changes.

"The most exciting areas of growth have been to see it go from a male-oriented program to now being quite obviously balanced between males and females," she said.

"Also, recreational sports has become sort of a way of life with younger people now as opposed to 10 or 12 years ago, when all the participants were very athletically-oriented."

The program also changes with each sport's rise or decline in popularity, said Lee Sullivan, Club Sports secretary.

"Our rifle club is kind of on ice

right now, because there aren't too many interested parties," she said. "But if there was a renewed interest in it, it wouldn't be a big hassle to get it started up again."

Students interested in initiating a sport into the program must pick up an explanatory handbook from the Club Sports office in the basement of the EMU. Presently a group is working to get snowboarding approved as a Club Sport, Sullivan said.

Students, faculty and staff are all eligible to participate in the program's 23 sports, the newest of which is ice hockey.

Some extremely popular teams, such as men's volleyball, have been forced to begin holding try-outs for spots on the squad, but most of the teams welcome people from every skill level to participate.

Vaughn said Club Sports is funded primarily by student incidental fees, but that money vanishes quickly in the overall operation of the program.

"Our budget of \$60,000 needs to include funding for all of our sports, plus the administration of this program," Vaughn said. "So basically the budget pays for just transportation when the teams go to compete. The teams have to

hold fund-raisers for food, lodging and uniforms."

A main problem facing the program, Vaughn said, is that "we're already doing fund-raising to the maximum amount," and costs are rising higher and higher.

"Basically, the resources aren't keeping up with the demand, and the dollars have to come from somewhere," she added. "I'm hopeful that the student body will continue giving additional support to this program."

One of the most lasting benefits students can get from the program, Vaughn feels, is the sense of responsibility and development that comes from team participation.

"We rely heavily on student involvement," Vaughn said. "Because we have over 800 people in Club Sports and only two staff members, it's quite apparent that the students are running the program."

"We have no paid coaches, and none of the athletes are scholarshiped to play or are recruited," Vaughn added. "So they are playing for what we call the love of the sport, and anything that comes beyond that is sort of a fringe benefit."

—Darla Jackson

CLUB SPORTS

UNIVERSITY OF OREGON

AIKIDO * BASEBALL * BADMITTON
BOWLING * CREW * CYCLING
EQUESTRAIN * FENCING * ICE HOCKEY
JUDO * KARATE * LACROSSE * RANGER CHALLENGE
RIFLE RUGBY * SAILING * SKIING * SOCCER
SWIMMING * TABLE TENNIS * TAE KWON DO
ULTIMATE FRISBEE * VOLLEYBALL * WATERPOLO



AN ATHLETIC ALTERNATIVE

The U of O Club Sports program bridges the gap between Intramurals and Intercollegiate sports. The program offers participation and competition in a variety of sports, plus the opportunity to be recognized as collegiate athletes. U of O Club Sports is open to all students, faculty and staff — men & women!

For more information call:

CLUB SPORTS EMU 346-3733