

Wheelchair hoopsters to face Duck men's team

Spotlight on abilities, not disabilities

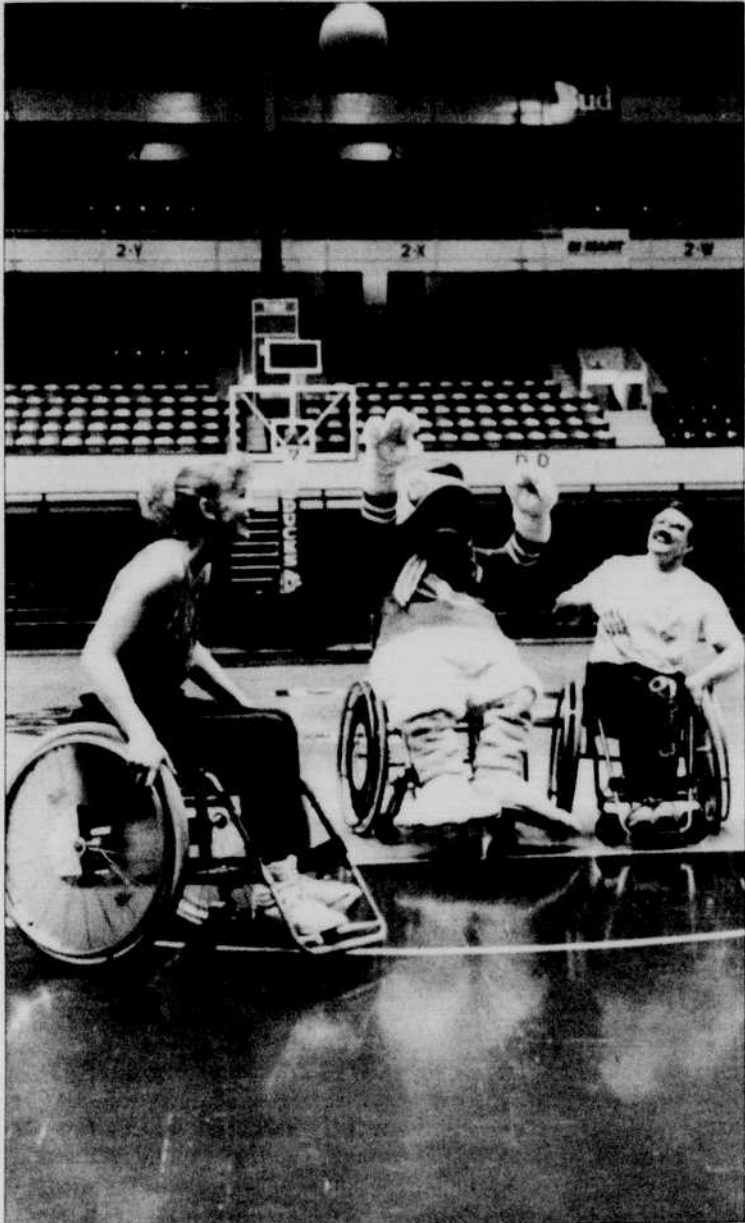


Photo by Martin Thiel

Low Rider team members Tiana Tozer and Loren Cushing will give the men's basketball team a lesson on a new way to play the game at Mac Court Thursday night.

By Daralyn Trappe
Emerald Contributor

The Oregon men's basketball team will play in McArthur Court Thursday, but it will be a whole new ballgame for them.

Thursday night at 7, the Ducks will face the Low Riders, a local team of wheelchair athletes. If that sounds like an uneven match-up, consider the fact that the Ducks will be playing in wheelchairs also.

The Low Riders is a team of 10 people who, for various reasons, use wheelchairs to compete in sports. The team was organized 12 years ago by the Sacred Heart Oregon Rehabilitation Center and is a member of the National Wheelchair Basketball Association.

Proceeds from the game will be divided between the University's services for students with disabilities and the ORC sports program, but Low Rider team members Tiana Tozer and Loren Cushing agree the game will serve as more than a fund raiser.

"We focus on the abilities of people with dis-

abilities," Cushing said. "We're real interested in the awareness opportunity of this type of game. (It will show people) that even though we're in wheelchairs, we have an active lifestyle."

"All of us, whether we're wheelchair athletes or use walking aids or whatever, want people to look beyond the adaptive equipment and see us as human beings," he said.

Tozer is the only University student on the team. She was hit by a drunk driver two years ago and spent several months in Sacred Heart Hospital. The ORC sports program eventually became a part of her rehabilitation.

"There are no sports offered on campus for disabled students, so we have to go out into the community," Tozer said.

There are several universities around the country that do have sports programs for wheelchair athletes, however, and Tozer will get the chance to play for one of them next year.

She graduates from the University this spring and will attend graduate school at the University

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7:30 p.m., Monday, April 16

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Introduction by President Myles Brand

A reception follows the address

O'Neill Room, Eugene Conference Center, downtown

This address and reception are presented in cooperation with the City of Eugene and the Eugene Chamber of Commerce

Noon-1:30 p.m., Tuesday, April 17

"The Peace Dividend: The Challenge of Converting to a Peacetime Economy"

Alumni Lounge, Gerlinger Hall, 1468 University Street,

University of Oregon



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The occupant is selected by the UO president "based on the qualities and achievements exemplified in the life of Wayne L. Morse: courage, integrity, independence, teaching ability, statesmanship, scholarship and contributions to the enhancement of the rule of law, representative government, and world peace."

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