

# CLUB SPORTS

More than 800 students, faculty and staff participate in the EMU club sports program. Club sports provides students a great way to become involved in the University and active on a competitive team.

Twenty four different sports ranging from ice hockey to Tae Kwon Do to ranger challenge are available for student involvement. Ranger challenge is the newest club sport in which men and women participate in a six event military skills and endurance contest.

To become involved in a club sport, a student must either go to the club sports office or attend one of the practices and talk to the coordinator or coach. A student coordinator is available for each sport and is responsible for the team. The coordinators choose a coach for the team who could either be a staff member, a fellow student or a member of the community.

Sandy Vaughn, director of club sports, said she believes the program offers students the opportunity to join a team that they could not get involved with in the past. Students represent the University as collegiate athletes on club teams and can letter in their preferred sport.

Club sports are designed as athletic alternatives bridging the gap between existing intramural and intercollegiate programs. This gives students the chance to learn a completely new sport and compete at the collegiate level.

The opportunity to learn a new sport does not occur in varsity sports. In club sports many people join teams without any experience.

"Many people on the sailing team have never sailed before," Vaughn said. "Yet once our members have been on the team for awhile, many become skilled enough to take a sailboat out on their own."

Club sports are also an excellent liaison between new students and the University. This



The club sports ski team competes most weekends during the winter.

connection gives students a social group of peers, a feeling of responsibility and interest to the team, as well as a commitment to represent the University.

"Club teams give students a sense of belonging and responsibility," Vaughn said.

The club teams do substantial fund raising to earn enough money to cover expenses. Some of the club funds come from incidental fees, but sports that are expensive, such as crew and ski team, do include some voluntary fees.

State vehicles are used for most travel. Many teams travel from Northern California to Canada and throughout Idaho. The teams play other university club teams, and sometimes some



File photo

Last year's coed clubs sports soccer team won its league championship.

smaller school varsity teams.

The Lacrosse team travels to several places during spring term. Two weeks ago, the team, all ready in training, attended a tournament in Chico, Calif. The team finished the tournament with one win and four losses and gave the new players a good experience.

Lacrosse has gone through major changes this year with an addition of a new coach to the team. The coach was a professional player on the East Coast. He has brought the team together and gotten more people seriously involved.

The season for Lacrosse is in the Spring.

Cameron Baxter, a third-year team member, said he expects to be very competitive and in the top three percent of the new league.

"Overall club sports gives people the opportunity to continue athletics in college with some organized structure," Baxter said.

Kelly Dunlap is the student coordinator for women's soccer and she has played on the club team for three years. The team's tryouts start before fall term of each year.

This fall over 60 women tried out for the 18 woman team. Their season started in September and they ended up with six wins and

four losses.

Currently the team is practicing for their winter term coed indoor soccer season.

"Winter is great fun for whoever is dedicated and wants to learn," Dunlap said. The team travels every Sunday to Portland to play at the Oregon City Indoor Center. Last year the coed team won the league.

"I had a great time this season," said team member Megan Foster. "I do wish the competition of the other University club teams was more intense, but this winter's coed games will be exciting."

Toward the end of winter term there will be tryouts for the spring season. If there is enough interest and turnout they might even carry two teams. They play in the outdoor city league in the Spring.

The ski team is one of the more intense sports in the program. Throughout fall term the team has been busy dry land training. When the first snow breaks and winter term starts, the skiers begin time trials. The ski team is split into two groups; one is the competitive traveling team and the other consistently trains to get on that team.

The fastest five men and women in the two categories of races make up the competitive team. The skiers competing make up 10 to 12 members and travels and races every Saturday and Sunday against other collegiate teams.

The other portion of members who are in training make up the developmental team. These skiers race on weekends on the park and recreation league. There are about 30 members on the developmental team.

The team tries to practice at least every other day on the snow each week. The team skis at Willamette Pass. But being at the mountain three days a week can have an adverse affect on the teams grades. Jeff Clausen, the ski team coordinator said that most students drop down to around 12 credits.

"We are looking for any last minute pros-kiers, especially women," Clausen said.

Club sports offer students the opportunity to get involved in an athletic team and represent the University. All the people currently in the program recommend that more students turn out. Try the bowling team or the fencing team, if nothing else you could meet some new people and get a great bowling shirt.

—Teresa Isabelle

## Beer Garden Events

**December 4** - International Anthem, a persistent freak-rock favorite, returns to the Beer Garden with the promise of controlled chaos and trumpet driven fury.

## Cultural Forum Events

**November 24** - Laura Kemp, a folk singer and songwriter will play free of charge in the EMU ballroom at noon.

**November 30** - Saferide Benefit at 8 p.m. Women singers and songwriters will entertain the crowd.

**December 1** - Mudhoney, an innovative alternative band, will thrash with Eugenius and Supersuckers at 8 p.m. in the EMU ballroom for the low, low student price of \$9.50 per person.

**December 8** - Chris Sorenson Trio, an amazing group of jazzy musicians, will play at noon in the EMU Fishbowl FREE of charge.

**December 11** - Gregory Field, a technically exciting acoustics singer, will perform at noon in the EMU Fishbowl also FREE of charge.

**December 12** - Peter Rowan, legendary American folk singer, will play with local group the Mad Farmers at WOW Hall for \$10 with student I.D.

Graphic by Heather Zilbaer

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