

# Athletics searching for balance

By **Erick Studenicka**  
*Oregon Daily Emerald*

Hidden among the back pages of local papers last week was the news that Stanford University was planning to add synchronized swimming, lacrosse and water polo to its women's sports program.

The funding for the three additional sports would cost about \$1 million and the expansion of the program would give women 29 additional scholarships. New fields, locker rooms and coaches' offices would also be included in the upgrade. Stanford did not implement the expansion to become national contenders in synchronized swimming, lacrosse or water polo.

Instead, the school added the three sports to reduce the inequality existing between its men's and women's athletic programs in the number of scholarships and the amount of resources available to the separate programs.

"Our goal is to provide a complete athletic program with

equal access for all women at Stanford," said Stanford Athletic Director Ted Leland. "This plan clearly makes Stanford a national leader in gender equity."

"Gender equity" promises to affect intercollegiate athletic programs across the nation, forcing the programs to reconsider how men's and women's athletics are funded and prioritized.

With the University Senate scheduled to debate a resolution on gender equity Wednesday, the issue promises to be a controversial topic on campus this spring. This series of articles will attempt to shed some light on the issues surrounding gender equity and explain how gender equity may affect Oregon athletics.

The effects of Title IX of the Education Amendment 1972, which guaranteed women the same educational opportunities as men, are in evidence on campus today. Oregon today has 14 intercollegiate sports — seven each for men and women.

Although each program has seven sports, the amount of funding and scholarships available for women remains significantly less than the totals available for men. At Oregon, 35

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— Ted Leland,  
*Stanford athletic director*

percent of the total number of intercollegiate athletic scholarships belong to women; nationwide, women receive only 29 percent of the total number of athletic scholarships available.

The cause of the discrepancy between the scholarship and funding totals is largely due to football. There is no comparable women's sport that requires so many athletic scholarships or costs so much to play. And there is no other sport that generates as much revenue.

Without football in the equation, the discrepancies between men's and women's programs are reduced, with the total amount of athletic scholarships available for University students being nearly equal.

The University Senate will debate a resolution on gender equity written by the Intercolle-

Turn to **EQUITY**, Page 9

# Equity policy will only be stumbling block

The gender equity policy that will be debated by the University Senate Wednesday is an unfair stumbling block to throw in front of the Oregon athletic department, which is doing a good job of promoting equality in sports.

The University Senate will debate the possibility of adding another women's athletic team with at least 25 participation slots within the next five years. The Intercollegiate Athletic Committee says this will ensure more equality between men and women on campus.

Currently 35 percent of the University's athletic scholarships go to women, well ahead of the 29 percent average nationwide.

This shows the University has already made an effort to showcase women's sports more than most other universities. Oregon has also shown equality in sports by supporting seven women's athletic teams, equal to its number of men's teams.




Oregon athletic director Rich Brooks recently proved he considered the success of women's teams to be equal to that of men's teams when he fired women's basketball head coach Elwin Heiny. Heiny had won 66 percent of his games at Oregon, but his teams had fallen on hard times lately and Brooks fired him.

This decision was especially tough for Brooks because Heiny was a friend and coaching comrade, but the athletic director wanted success in the woman's basketball team and did what he thought was best to achieve that.

The biggest problem in gender equity at Oregon is the dif-

Turn to **FUNDING**, Page 9



# ASUO DEBATES

## ASUO Executive Candidates

**Greek Sponsored Debate:**  
Tuesday, April 13th  
6:00 p.m., 150 Columbia

**RHGC Sponsored Debate:**  
Monday, April 19th  
7:00 p.m., Gold Room (Carson)

## IFC Candidates

**RHGC Sponsored Debate:**  
Thursday, April 15th  
5:30 p.m., Hamilton Lounge

ASUO ELECTIONS 1993-94

9 HOLES <span style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">\$6</span> <small>Student Special w/current UO ID</small>		18 HOLES <span style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">\$10</span> <small>Student Special w/current UO ID</small>
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