

Club Sports allows students to frolic

■ The program caters to those who wish to compete at a non-varsity level

By Simone Ripke
Oregon Daily Emerald

Be honest.

Have you ever heard of Wushu?

The traditional Chinese martial art is just one of the 42 activities that make up Oregon Club Sports and is open to anyone. That is, if naked skydiving isn't what you're looking for.

Club Sports has come a long way since its official founding in 1971. Club Sports Director Sandy Vaughn said the program initially included three clubs: ski, rifle and rugby. Today, 28 years later, the variety of Club Sports activities includes traditional sports such as baseball and soccer to newer athletic pursuits like skydiving, snowboarding and scuba diving.

Crew team coordinator Robin Brandt, a senior geological science major, does not mind leaving the comfort of her bed early six days a week to attend practice. Working hard to qualify for nationals makes the team's efforts worthwhile.

"The men's lightweight eight is looking really strong this year," Brandt said.

She hopes to bring home a trophy from the upcoming Pacific-10 Championships before possibly proceeding to nationals.

Most Club Sports teams compete with other schools. The philosophy behind the co-educational program is to give students a chance to compete in collegiate athletics without necessarily meeting the varsity skill level.

Most teams welcome athletes of any skill level. Some, such as DanceForce and men's volleyball, do have tryouts.

Student coordinators organize each club, including practices, competitions, fund-raising activities and recruiting new members.

"We would love to have more people," Brandt said.

She was one of many coordinators who represented their teams at a Club Sports fair last Thursday. Interested students had a chance to gain an insight into the different teams, to talk to members and coordinators and to jump right in and sign up.

Natali Jones, a senior majoring in journalism and Spanish and one of the coordinators for the skydiving team, said that roughly 40 students expressed interest in joining the team at the fair. Currently, only five members of the team are licensed to compete. Jones is excited about expanding the team, which is now in its fourth year at the University. "We've been trying to get off the ground, literally," Jones said.

Awards and trophies are not the only incentives that await skydiving team members. Jones said that after 100 jumps, students get the privilege of having pies thrown into their faces once they reach the ground. Naked jumps are also not unknown to some team members.

Michelle Greenberg, a sophomore, is the coordinator for the women's ultimate frisbee team, which will have 16 of last year's 25 members.

"A lot of people don't know about ultimate frisbee," she said.

Although players receive more playing time with 14 people on a team, Greenberg said she was excited that numerous people showed interest in joining at the open house. Anyone can come out to play, and the team makes no cuts with regards to skill level.

Greenberg said that during fall term, new members will learn the basics, such as how to throw a frisbee.

"By the time spring gets around, it gets more competitive," she said. Then the team practices 5 times a week.

It is always possible to add a new sport to the current list of Club Sports. Interested students can pick up initiation forms at the Club Sports office, located in the EMU.

P.E.

Continued from Page 1

there have been no serious injuries thus far, Lokendahl said.

"It gives me a break from my hard classes," Sorric said. "I get credit for doing something fun, and I have the opportunity to take classes to stay in shape."

Trampoline, however, isn't the only way to have fun in P.E.

Senior Mike Brown, a history major, said that he was seeking more than physical exertion when he signed up for a self-defense class.

"I wouldn't be learning as much in a normal P.E. class,"

Brown said.

Freshman and yoga student Erika Platano said she values the relaxation aspect of the class.

"It's more relaxing than other classes you could take," Platano said. "It works your muscles out without making you stressed out."

Juggling provides more than just another credit for Community and Regulation Planning graduate student Shu Kaneko.

"I am acquiring skills that I can show people and use to entertain," Kaneko said.

Not all activities address cardiovascular health, Physical Education Director Peggy Rees said. That doesn't mean that they

aren't good for you though, she said.

"These classes are new and fun, and you get a chance to meet people," Rees said. "Having healthy interaction with others is a good thing."

Many students value the unconventional courses and take advantage of the opportunity to use them.

"The diversity within P.E. classes makes it easier for people who don't usually exercise," said Ted Dervin, a freshman majoring in pre-education. "I feel that my educational dollars are going to good use with a program like this."

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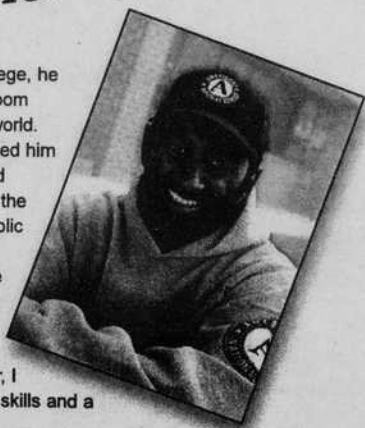
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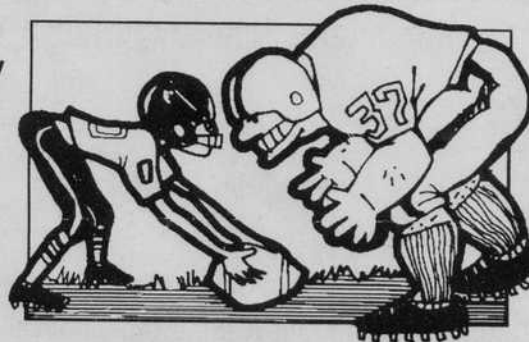
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