

Tuesday, August 5, 2003

Actively outdoors

The Oregon Outdoor Program provides a cooperative setting suited to any adventurer's age or skill level

By Jesse Thomas
Sports Editor

In the Oregon Outdoor Program, there is no limit.

Rafting north of the Arctic Circle, mountain biking in Nepal or diving off the coast of Baja are all possibilities for the program that established itself in 1967 as one of the nation's first outdoor programs.

The Outdoor Program allows anyone who is willing to initiate a trip in a cooperative manner, far from anything guided or executed as a democracy.

"The philosophy of our trips is unique," Coordinator Dan Geiger said. "Trips are not led in a guide outfitter style but a co-op census style."

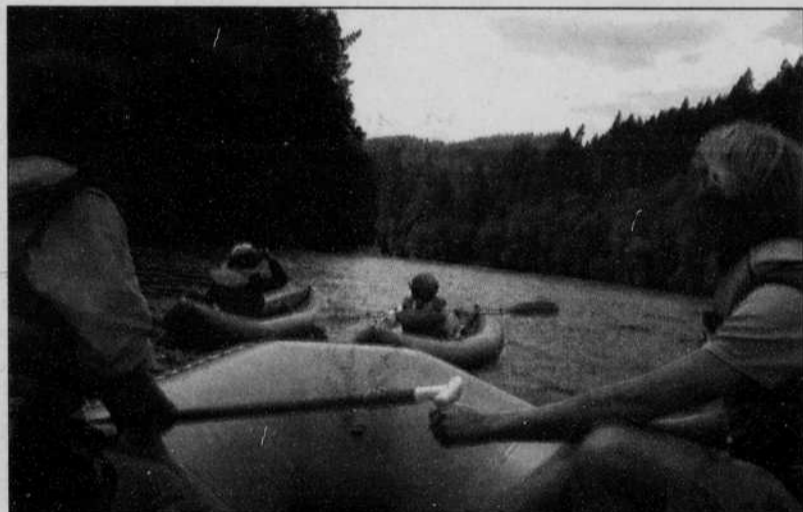
Meaning, the trips are open to anyone who wishes to participate, including students and community. Trips are led not by paid guides but by "trip initiators" who take a two-day training class and can post any trip their hearts desire.

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Jessica Waters Emerald

Adi Fairbank (left), Jonathan Evans (center), and Jen Carroll (right) head through Brown's Hole, one of two class three rapids on the trip.



Jessica Waters Emerald

The participants in Sunday's rafting trip enjoyed pleasant weather and beautiful greenery.

White water rafting trip leaves spirit invigorated

Upon my arrival at the Barn Sunday morning, I was warmly welcomed into the relaxed atmosphere amid a diverse crowd. I laughed about my sleep deprivation and told stories about how I spilled my first cup of coffee in the Albertson's parking lot as we waited for our trip initiator to take the lead.

Once the group realized I was the reporter on the trip, one person asked, "Does that mean we have to be nice to you?"

I replied with similar sarcasm, "No."

Our white water rafting trip awaited, and we loaded the rafts onto the trailer and got fitted for gear. Kat Smith, our trip initiator, was nervous as it was her first time leading a brigade, but her contagious laugh made everyone easy-going about the journey.

Upon entering the Barn's bathroom, I was mesmerized by the walls that had become mementos from past adventures.



Jesse Thomas
Go the distance

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Larsen heads Oregon's new lacrosse team

Jen Larsen, former North Carolina assistant, was recently selected as Oregon's new head coach for women's lacrosse

By Jesse Thomas
Sports Editor

For Jen Larsen, life has been a rush lately.

Moving from the East Coast, living out of a hotel room and accepting the Oregon women's lacrosse head coaching position have all been nothing short of crazy.

But Larsen thrives on challenges and knows it will be an uphill battle, both in establishing a team and learning about herself.

"I'm just excited about the opportunity and thrilled to be here," Larsen said. "I'm really looking forward to the challenge, and it's going to be great for me to establish who I am as a coach."

The announcement came this past Tuesday for Larsen, who will lead the Ducks into lacrosse intercollegiate competition in the 2004-05 school year. Although Larsen has never held a head coaching position, she has experience in assistant coaching for the sport.

Larsen, a University of Virginia graduate, has been an assistant coach at University of North Carolina for the past three years. When she heard about the opening of a program at Oregon, she sent in her resumé.



Jessica Waters Emerald

Jen Larsen was all smiles after becoming the new head lacrosse coach.

Prior to being a Tar Heel, Larsen was an assistant coach and camp director for the field hockey program at Duke University from 1998 to 2000. The former Cavalier graduate also worked at Georgetown from 1996 to 1998 as an assistant lacrosse and field hockey coach.

For Larsen, the West Coast is entirely new. Despite having a few relatives up and down the seaboard, Larsen hasn't visited Oregon since her youth.

"I'd only been here on a family trip as we drove cross country," she said. "I'd only been to Crater Lake, and that's the only thing of the state of Oregon that I remembered my whole life."

Larsen made her return over the July 4 weekend during the

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New sports arena gets green light from Frohnmayer

The University President gives the go-ahead to build a new arena to replace an aging and obsolete McArthur Court

By Jesse Thomas
Sports Editor

Following suit with other recent expansions, University President Dave Frohnmayer announced Thursday his approval of a new sports arena for Oregon athletics.

The proposed arena will replace McArthur Court to become the new home to Oregon men's and women's basketball, volleyball and wrestling.

"First of all, it replaces an obsolete facility," Frohnmayer said. "What we have was an unusual opportunity, thanks to the availability of private philanthropy, to replace a facility that's outdated by anybody's measure."

Preliminary plans include increased seating capacity and greater net revenue for Oregon athletics. The arena could accommodate 13,000 to 15,000 people for games and events, with roughly 1,000 club seats, 20 suites and 2,500 donor seats.

The new facility is also expected to host as many as 100 events a year with up to 500,000 people attending.

"A facility of that kind, if properly constructed, has incredible versatility," Frohnmayer said. "And communities really depend upon universities to provide that kind of facility. That's

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